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DH on Sunday

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The Power of Good

Satwik-Chirag book Singapore Open final berth

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Big Picture

Rewriting the narrative

Increasingly, schizophrenia is being framed as a treatable neurological condition rather than a behavioural failure. What does this mean for patients and caregivers?

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Vibrant and cool

From colourful street art to chic cafes and hangouts, Singapore has a youthful exuberance to it

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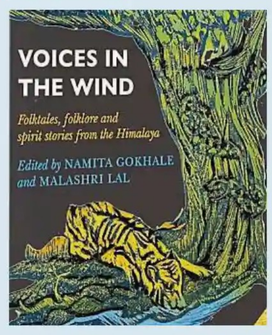

Mountain tales

This is a treasure trove of folklore and legends spanning the Himalayan range, showcasing the region's diversity

Food & Drink
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Conditions apply

Does that vegetable ramen or soup have meat broth? 'Veg' comes in different garbs in different regions

Quickly

DKS to take oath as CM on June 3

Eight-time lawmaker D K Shivakumar was elected as the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader on Saturday and he will take oath as the chief minister on June 3. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot will administer the oath of office to Shivakumar at 4.05 pm.
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Abhishek Banerjee attacked

MP and TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee rushed to a hospital on Saturday, hours after being attacked by a mob in Sonarpur, in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district. Video clips showed Abhishek being assaulted while on his way to meet the family of a slain party functionary.
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NTA at it again, CUET-UG test faces glitches

Amid the public outcry over NEET-UG paper leak and CBSE class 12 exam evaluation glitches, the Common University Entrance Test for undergraduate courses (CUET-UG) has run into trouble, with several candidates complaining of glitches and delays in starting the exam. The National Testing Agency blamed the private company that was hired to conduct the test.
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Jarange-Patil launches fresh quota stir

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil launched yet another agitation on Saturday in Maharashtra's Jalna district. He is demanding the implementation of the Hyderabad gazetteer and the distribution of certificates to enable them to avail reservation benefits as OBC members.

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Charges to be framed against Jacqueline

A Delhi court on Saturday ordered the framing of charges against actor Jacqueline Fernandez, alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar and 15 others in a Rs 200-crore money laundering case. The accused persons have to be charged under Section 3 of the PMLA, the court said.
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Creator economy: Hope, hype and hard truths

Affordable data has fuelled India's creator boom, but algorithmic control and income inequality reveal a far more fragile reality

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Encouraged by Saurabh Kumar's (name changed) score of over 95% in the CBSE Class 10 board examination, his parents sent him from Bihar to Kota for Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) coaching, hoping to secure his entry into premier engineering institutions.

Despite spending around Rs 10 lakh on two years of coaching, Saurabh could not qualify for admission to any top institute. He also did not perform well in the Class 12 board examination. The reason? His parents blame reels.

INSIGHT

"He was very good at studies in Class 10, but now he has completely changed. It is because of reels. He spends a lot of time watching them and making them," said Saurabh's father, who works in a bank in Bihar.

"I don't want a 9-to-5 tech job," said Saurabh, expressing hope that reels and videos would bring him both fame and money.

Hope is contagious. Like Saurabh, millions of youth are getting hooked to the 6-inch smartphone screen, chasing fame and money. But only a few are making real money.

With over 10 crore digital creators, India now has one creator for every 10 internet users. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

According to a survey conducted by influencer marketing platform Kofluence, around 90% of digital creators cannot rely on social media as a full-time income source.

Despite nearly half of creators identifying themselves as full-time content creators, 88% earn less than three-fourth of their total income from social media platforms.

"Platform ad revenue is algorithmically volatile. The path to sustainable creator economics runs through brand retainers, performance-linked deals and live commerce, not through dependence on platform payouts," said Kofluence co-founder Ritesh Ujjwal.

Affordable data

India is home to over 100 crore internet users, second only to China. This is nearly three times the population of the United States.

According to data shared by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in Parliament, India's per GB data tariff is around $0.08–$0.10, the lowest in the world. The global average is $2.59 per GB, making data in India nearly 25 times cheaper.

The number of internet users has increased nearly fourfold over the past decade. In 2014, there were around 25 crore internet users, according to official figures.

The entry of Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio into the telecom sector in 2016 intensified competition, driving a sharp fall in mobile data prices. They have dropped to around Rs 12 to 14 per GB from nearly Rs 300 to 500 per GB before 2015.

Real Money

During the Bihar Assembly election campaign last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that youth were benefiting from cheap data by "making reels, showcasing their creativity and earning from it."

The Prime Minister has spoken about growing opportunities in the creative sector on multiple occasions. In the 114th edition of his monthly radio programme *Mann Ki Baat* in September 2024, Modi said: "In these changing times, the nature of jobs is changing and new sectors such as gaming, animation, reel making, film making and poster making are emerging. If you can perform well in any of these skills, your talent can get a very big platform."

However, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has described reels as a new addiction of the 21st century. According to him, cheap data has only enabled youth to scroll through Instagram and Facebook reels, rather than creating employment opportunities.

No doubt, accessibility and cheap data have fuelled the creator economy.

▸ Creator economy, Page 2

Invisible walls: Caste in early learning spaces

Everyday practices in Anganwadis reproduce caste hierarchies, shaping exclusion in children's experiences of care, learning and belonging

SUDHA SREENIVASA REDDY

In a remote village in Karnataka, children gather each morning in a circle in the Anganwadi courtyard. Laughter fills the air as their games begin. Yet the circle is never quite complete. Tribal children stand slightly apart, almost instinctively, as though guided by an invisible line no one has ever formally drawn. They are too young to understand caste, yet old enough to feel the distance it creates.

When lunchtime arrives, the separation becomes even more visible. While rice and dal are served to all children, a few privileged caste children quietly open tiffin boxes brought from home. Their parents have instructed them not to eat food prepared by a tribal helper. A small boy watches in silence. He may not know the language of purity and pollution, but he senses that something about him — and the food served to him — is considered different.

These are not isolated incidents. They are part of a deeper and disturbing reality that continues to exist in many early childhood spaces across the country. Anganwadis, which are meant to nurture equality, dignity, nutrition and learning, often become the first institutions where children silently learn hierarchy. Before they learn the alphabet, they learn who sits where, whose touch is acceptable, whose food is rejected, and who belongs within, or outside, the social circle.

The persistence of caste prejudice in early childhood spaces such as Anganwadis shows how discrimination is socially reproduced. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

The **SUNDAY STORY**

A few years ago, a newly appointed Dalit cook stood outside an Anganwadi holding her appointment order while parents objected to her entry. "Why should a Scheduled Caste woman cook for our children?" they asked openly. Her dignity, employment and identity remained suspended outside the doorway of a public institution meant to serve every child equally.

In yet another village, discrimination took quieter but equally painful forms. Separate metal plates and tumblers were kept aside for Dalit children so that "others would not feel uncomfortable," as one helper explained softly. Some Dalit children were asked to bring their own utensils from home, which were then stored separately.

This issue was brought to the notice of the department and the practice was stopped. Now, all children are being served in the same plates at the Anganwadi.

These practices persist despite constitutional guarantees and legal protections under the National Food Security Act, 2013, and the Right to Education Act.

The geography of inequality is visible not only in social interactions but also in the physical structure of many villages. In one Panchayat, two Anganwadi centres served children from the same village: one located in the privileged-caste neighbourhood and the other in the Dalit colony.

The centre on the main road was bright, spacious, and filled with charts and toys. The centre in the Dalit colony, however, was cramped, leaking, and overcrowded, with children squeezed together on worn-out mats.

A little girl whispered softly, "We want to play with those children... but we are not allowed." In that quiet sentence lay the everyday architecture of exclusion — one that separates children long before they can fully understand why.

Such moments reveal how deeply caste continues to shape the emotional and social worlds of children.

▸ Caste discrimination, Page 2

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Monetising content a major hurdle

Creator economy, from P1

The number of digital creators in the country is estimated at over 10 crore, meaning one in every 10 internet users in the country is a digital creator today. Of these, around 20 to 25 lakh are active creators with 1,000 or more followers. However, according to Boston Consulting Group report, *From Content to Commerce: Mapping India's Creator Economy* (May 2025), only 8–10% of active creators are able to monetise their content.

While the pool of digital creators is large, only a tiny fraction earn meaningful income from it. Even among active creators, over 90% are unable to make any money.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant's recent remarks likening some youngsters involved in media, social media and law to "cockroaches and parasites" have drawn attention to the broader debate on youth unemployment. While he later clarified that his comments were directed only at individuals using fake and bogus credentials, the remarks triggered widespread controversy.

Tech giants rule

This debate also opens up a broader question about the structure of the digital economy.

A major share of the revenue is captured by large American tech firms such as Alphabet, Meta, Amazon and Microsoft, which control digital infrastructure, distribution networks and algorithms.

"Most creators are heavily dependent on the algorithms of these tech companies," said Prof Anand Pradhan, Regional Director, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Dhenkanal campus.

Alphabet controls long-form video and search through YouTube and Google, while Meta dominates social media via Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp. Elon Musk-led X also plays a key role in the digital ecosystem.

In the name of innovation, these platforms frequently change algorithms, making it harder for creators to earn stable income. Instagram and Facebook use artificial intelligence to drive content discovery through algorithmic feeds and reels rather than user subscriptions, meaning a creator's reach is highly variable and subject to Meta's engagement optimisation.

YouTube's recommendation engine is optimised for watch time and viewer retention, forcing creators to adapt their pacing, thumbnails and video structure to the algorithm.

X links payouts and reach to platform subscriptions. Instead of standard view counts, it uses algorithmic gates, proprietary ad-tech and monetisation requirements to influence creator behaviour.

These platforms use sophisticated systems to maximise their revenue while sharing only a small fraction with content creators. Very few creators can earn income without relying on them.

"We have to break the shackles of these companies. We have to develop our own tech platform," said Pradhan, adding that localisation of platforms would make it easier to ensure fair, transparent and timely payments to digital creators.

Mental, emotional burnout

An increasing number of youngsters are being drawn to making reels, podcasts and other digital content in the hope of good money, fame and a better work-life balance. However, they face significant challenges on all these fronts.

Digital creators often work unconventional hours and face constant algorithmic pressure. The relentless demand for content and the "always-on" nature of online platforms blur the boundaries between personal life and work.

"Reels are altering attention spans. They lead to behavioural addictions that disrupt productivity and mental focus," said Swami Advaitananda Giri, Chairman of the International Meditation Foundation.

Short-form videos, particularly reels, dominate digital content on platforms like Instagram and Facebook. Typically, 15–60 seconds long, they are designed to quickly grab attention with visually engaging, algorithmically curated content.

Giri, a cyber security expert who has been involved in several mental health and digital de-addiction initiatives in India and the United States, said that algorithms and the broader social media ecosystem are designed to foster digital addiction.

"Digital platforms are not simply waiting for our attention; they are actively designed to capture it. They study our behaviour, trigger our emotions, reward our impulses and keep us returning again and again. The phone in our hand is not only a device; it is an attention machine," Giri added.

A court in the United States recently held social media companies legally responsible for digital addiction. It observed that platforms such as Facebook and Instagram are deliberately designed to hook young users and keep them glued to their screens.

Sunrise industry

Despite these concerns, the creator economy continues to expand rapidly.

The creator market is a multi-billion-dollar industry with significant growth potential. According to the Boston Consulting Group report, creators influence over 30% of consumer decisions, shaping $350–400 billion in spending. This is projected to exceed $1 trillion by 2030.

The creator ecosystem's direct revenues are projected to reach $100–125 billion by the end of the decade, up from around $20–25 billion in 2025.

The influencer marketing market, a subset of the creator economy, is projected to reach Rs 4,500 to 5,000 crore by 2027, up from an estimated Rs 3,000 to 3,500 crore in 2025, recording an annual growth of 22%, according to Kofluence's report *Decoding Influence 2026*. The number of active influencers is expected to rise to 35–45 lakh by 2027.

"The growth engine is no longer metro India. Micro-creators in Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets are consistently outperforming their metro counterparts on engagement, at campaign costs that are a fraction of large-city equivalents," said Kofluence co-founder Ritesh Ujjwal.

India's media and entertainment market is estimated to grow from Rs 2.78 lakh crore in 2025 to Rs 3.3 lakh crore in 2028, driven by strong expansion in digital media, live events, films, animation and visual effects (VFX), according to a FICCI–EY India report. New media is expected to account for over 50% of this revenue, driven by smartphones, connected TVs, regional content and experiential trends.

"Gaming, streaming, animation and creator commerce are not parallel verticals; they share production infrastructure, audience behaviour and commercial models," said Ujjwal.

"The creator who built a loyal cooking audience on Instagram becomes a distribution channel that a D2C (direct-to-consumer) food brand, a quick-commerce platform and an OTT service all try to reach. The convergence is commercial, not just cultural," he added.

As the sector grows in scale and value, questions around platform power, fair revenue sharing and creator welfare are likely to become more central to the debate on India's digital economy.

Digital creators and commerce

- As India's digital infrastructure expands, the **orange** or **creative economy** is emerging as a key driver of economic growth
- The orange economy includes industries driven by **creativity, ideas, artistic expression**, and **cultural value**, where **intellectual property (IP)** generates economic value
- Digital creators are driving creative economy by shaping marketing trends and consumer preferences
- Content creators face challenges around monetisation, IP ownership, platform dependence and access to capital

What is creative economy?
Part of the broader orange economy, creative economy brings together creators, platforms, brands and intermediaries that earn revenue through advertising, sponsorships and subscriptions
India's creative growth drivers
• Digital infrastructure expansion and consumption
• Diverse cultural heritage
• Cost-efficient production industry
• Skilled creative and technical talent
• Cutting-edge technologies

What comes under the orange economy?

- Media
- Entertainment
- Intellectual Property (IP)
- Gaming
- Animation
- Digital content creation
- Live entertainment
- Cultural tourism
- Immersive story-telling

The boom
20 - 25 LAKH
Number of content creators in India*
(*A monetised content creator with more than 1,000 followers)

>60% Consumers exposed to creative content

>30% Shoppers influenced from creative content

Digital growth fuelling creative industry

Year	Number of internet users	Average monthly data consumption per user (GBs)	Digital content watch time per user (hours per week)
FY20	74 crore	12	6.6
FY24	95 crore	27	10.9
FY30*	130 crore	60	19.3
Growth	**75% rise**	**5x rise**	**3x rise**

*Estimated

Animation, VFX, live events fastest-growing sectors

Segment	Revenue size in India (in Rs bn)		Growth
	2024	2027	
Digital media	802	1,104	38%
Online gaming	232	316	36%
Filmed entertainment	187	213	14%
Animation & VFX	103	147	43%
Live events	101	167	65%
Overall media and entertainment	**2,502**	**3,067**	**22.6%**

Brands bet on creators

- 70% brands plan to scale their creator budgets by 1.5-3x in next 2-3 years
- Nearly 52% of marketers identify micro-influencers for hyperlocal campaigns
- Brands allocate 10–20% of marketing budgets to creators
- Fake followership, difficulty in measuring return on investment are key brand concerns

Creator-influenced spend to surpass $1,000 billion by 2030

	FY24	Increase	FY30
India's consumption expenditure	$2,000 bn	2x	$4,000 bn
Creator-influenced consumption	$400 bn	3x	$1,200 bn
Creator economy	$25 bn	5x	$125 bn

What's trending in creator economy

- **Instagram** remains the most creator-focused platform, with an estimated **18–23 lakh** Indian creators
- **Short-form video** is the preferred format, followed by static posts, long-form video and blogs
- **Comedy**, **movies** and **daily soaps**, and **fashion** are the top three genres of content consumed
- **Quality**, **relevance** and **variety** are the top three parameters for consumers to select a platform
- Fashion, entertainment and **personal care** lead in creator influence

Major AVGC hubs in India

- Bengaluru
- Hyderabad
- Mumbai
- Pune
- Chennai
- Thiruvananthapuram

Gaps in India's creative economy

- 8–10% creators monetise effectively, compared to 40% in mature markets
- Long tail of influencers earn less than Rs 18K per month which is too little to sustain independent careers despite full-time commitment to content creation
- India's creator economy is platform-rich but IP-poor, with creators dependent on rented distribution platforms, algorithms, brand cycles and platform-controlled revenue models
- Creators are still starved of growth capital because financial institutions lack ways to value IP, audience quality, and brand strength
- Limited access to funding restricts investment in studios, creative teams and scalable ventures
- The current education model often underplays interdisciplinary creative intelligence

7% Projected annual growth of the media and entertainment sector until 2027

2 lakh Hours of original content created annually in India

Sources: BCG, Kofluence, PIB, Waves report, media reports

COMPILED BY DIVYASHRI MUDAKAVI DH GRAPHICS: GURU PRASATH R

The making of a digital creator

SHREE D N
BENGALURU, DHNS

Triveni Patil, a YouTuber who creates cookery content, never imagined she would become a famous digital creator one day. She found a niche by focusing on traditional delicacies and recipes from North Karnataka. Today, she has 10 lakh subscribers and earns more than Rs 70,000 through her channel.

Her husband, Praveen Gowdar, a visual media professional, began filming and uploading the videos to the channel nearly a decade ago, a craft he also taught her. Five years ago, she received YouTube's Silver Play Button after reaching 1 lakh subscribers, and just two weeks ago, she reached 10 lakh subscribers, making her eligible for the Gold Play Button.

"A full-time job was never on my list, but now I'm happy that this has become a source of income for me," she says.

"I upload three videos a week, irrespective of the views or income. Consistency is the key to getting more subscribers, along with protecting the niche," she adds.

Struggles and uncertainty

Srishti Jagirdar, a Vijayapura-based Instagrammer now settled in Bengaluru, says content creation was not her first choice. After working in the corporate sector and briefly trying her hand at anchoring, she began making videos with a friend, initially just for fun.

"I found myself not enjoying my corporate work and decided to quit. Now I am a full-time content creator. This is my bread and butter," she says.

For many creators like her, the journey to online fame is marked by uncertainty, financial struggles, trolling and ethical dilemmas.

According to her, the early phase was challenging. "It is not easy to sustain during the initial days when there is no income. Not everyone can afford it. I was lucky enough to have the freedom and backup to pursue this," she says. Today, she is also into stand-up comedy.

Srishti calls herself a feminist creator. "Of course, trolls will be there. They will post mean comments. But who cares? We just ignore and move on," she says.

Concerns over originality

Observers of the creator economy also point out that not all content shared online is original or creative. For instance, there have been reports of an increase in AI-generated songs on YouTube, where artificial intelligence is used for writing, music composition, and sometimes voice generation, raising concerns about attribution and originality.

Most original creators are also confused about AI usage in content creation.

"One can't say we will not use AI, especially when it helps make the work easy. But creating misleading content using AI is wrong," Srishti feels. "AI videos of cookery can be disastrous because these are videos that people actually imitate," Triveni adds.

Have your say

To express your opinion, e-mail us at: insight@deccanherald.co.in

Caste discrimination, from P1

Social exclusion cannot be ended by law alone, it must take root in everyday practice

To adults, these experiences may appear small or routine. But for children, they leave lasting impressions. A separate plate, a rejected meal, a refusal to sit together or a subtle exclusion from play gradually enters a child's understanding of self-worth.

Psychologists describe this as internalised inferiority. Children experience it more simply — as the quiet shrinking of possibilities.

The tragedy is that these exclusions unfold within spaces specifically designed to reduce inequality. Anganwadis, under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme, are intended to ensure nutrition, preschool education, care and protection for all children. Our Constitution abolishes untouchability and prohibits caste-based discrimination in public spaces. The Right to Education Act mandates inclusive and discrimination-free learning environments. The National Food Security Act recognises food as a legal entitlement, not charity. International commitments such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child also obligate India to protect children from discrimination based on caste or social origin.

Yet the distance between law and lived reality remains painfully wide.

Social hierarchy

Across India, similar incidents continue to emerge. Reports from Uttar Pradesh describe Dalit students being made to sit separately during midday meals. In Tamil Nadu, Dalit children have reportedly been asked to clean classrooms.

In Rajasthan, a nine-year-old Dalit boy died after allegedly being beaten for touching a water pot reserved for privileged caste students. These are symptoms of a social order that continues to survive within educational institutions despite decades of democracy, constitutionalism and development.

Various research studies reinforce these field realities. They show that caste bias continues to influence seating arrangements, teacher expectations, participation, access to resources and even educational outcomes.

The discrimination may not always appear overt, but it quietly influences childhood experiences and limits educational opportunities.

Modernity without equality

India often celebrates technological advancement, digital classrooms and rising enrolment rates. Villages now have smartphones, internet connectivity and digital learning platforms. Yet many children still cannot freely share a meal together. This contradiction exposes a deeper crisis: modernity without equality remains incomplete.

The consequences are not merely social; they are emotional and psychological. Early childhood is the most sensitive stage of human development.

Experiences of humiliation, exclusion and rejection during these formative years can profoundly affect confidence, participation, learning ability and emotional well-being. Many children begin to withdraw silently. Some stop participating altogether. Others internalise the belief that they are somehow less deserving than their peers.

These wounds may not be visible, but they travel with children into adolescence and adulthood.

Collective responsibility

Change cannot come only through laws written on paper; it must take root in everyday practice. Real transformation begins when Anganwadi workers consciously model inclusion, when teachers recognise and challenge prejudice, when parents question inherited notions of purity and pollution, and when local leaders affirm that every child's dignity matters more than caste customs.

Only then can these spaces truly become centres of care, equality and belonging rather than silent classrooms of social exclusion.

Early childhood spaces must become places where equality is not merely spoken about but experienced daily — through shared meals, mixed playgroups, equal facilities and relationships built on dignity and belonging.

Training programmes for Anganwadi workers and teachers must include anti-bias education and child rights perspectives. Communities, too, must engage in open conversations about caste discrimination rather than treating it as a private social matter.

Accountability mechanisms must also monitor exclusionary practices in nutrition and preschool spaces with seriousness and urgency.

That broken circle in the remote village represents more than a morning game. It reflects the unfinished promise of equality in the country.

We speak proudly of constitutional values, child rights, food security and inclusive development. Yet these promises remain incomplete until they reach the smallest Anganwadi in the most remote village — until every child can sit, eat, learn and play together without fear, shame or exclusion.

The walls dividing children may be invisible, but their consequences are not.

Unless these unseen barriers are dismantled in early childhood itself, they risk being passed silently from one generation to the next — through gestures, routines and silences that continue to shape the future of the country' children.

(Sudha Sreenivasa Reddy is a social development practitioner and training Facilitator with the Right to Food Programme at the Centre for Child and the Law, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru)

DKS to take oath on June 3, chooses austere ceremony

CLP meet unanimously chooses new CM-designate

BENGALURU, DHNS

Eight-time lawmaker D K Shivakumar was elected as the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader on Saturday and he will take oath as the chief minister in a simple ceremony on June 3.

After the CLP meeting, where he was unanimously chosen, Shivakumar went to Lok Bhavan and staked his claim to form the next government. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot will administer the oath of office to Shivakumar at the Lok Bhavan glass house at 4.05 pm on June 3.

Speculation is rife that Shivakumar will be sworn-in along with a dozen ministers in the first batch.

Initially, Shivakumar was to take oath on the Grand Steps of the Vidhana Soudha. Apparently, the decision to scale down the event was based on advice from Shivakumar's deity Ajjayya and the police.

"The plan was to ferry people in 10,000-15,000 buses from the districts. We decided against this to avoid inconveniencing citizens on a weekday. Also, fuel is getting expensive. So, we're being austere," Karnataka Congress working president GC Chandrashekar said, adding the party does not want any pomp.

"After the swearing-in ceremony, the new CM will visit all district headquarters to meet voters and party workers. So, please don't come here. There are no passes. Let's not create any nuisance," Chandrashekar said.

According to sources, Shivakumar has instructed all his supporters to keep celebrations muted. It is said that he is wary of antagonising outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's supporters.

Shivakumar's election as the new CLP leader was overseen by Congress general secretaries KC Venugopal, Randeep Singh Surjewala and Jairam Ramesh. "Everyone expected trouble and a big shake-up in the party. But we are one family. Though people wondered what Siddaramaiah would do, he proved the party's decision was his own, showing that only Congress is in his heart," Venugopal said after the CLP meeting. He declared that the Congress would return to power in 2028 under Shivakumar with Siddaramaiah's support.

The CLP meeting started about 45 minutes behind schedule as Siddaramaiah went to Tumakuru to pay his last respects to former minister Venkataramanappa.

▸ DKS, Page 7

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot receives a letter staking claim to form a new government from CLP leader D K Shivakumar, in Bengaluru, on Saturdy. PTI

Cong to look beyond Siddu, guarantees

Shaken by the electoral defeats of the DMK and the Trinamool Congress, the Congress has decided to pursue a comprehensive revamp of both the government and the party organisation in Karnataka by looking beyond Siddaramaiah and the guarantee schemes to boost its prospects in the 2028 polls.

Details on Page 6

> Everyone expected trouble and a big shake-up in the party. But we are one family. Though people wondered what Siddaramaiah would do, he proved the party's decision was his own, showing that only Congress is in his heart.
>
> **K C VENUGOPAL**
> Cong general secy

Now, glitches hit NTA's CUET-UG

Retest to be held for 3,765 students who couldn't finish test

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid the public outcry over NEET-UG paper leak and CBSE class 12 exam evaluation glitches, the Common University Entrance Test for undergraduate courses (CUET-UG) has run into trouble, with several candidates complaining of glitches and delays in starting the exam.

The National Testing Agency, which had earlier received flak over the NEET-UG leak, blamed the private company that was hired to conduct the test and said it will hold a one-time exam for the 3,765 students who could not complete the test due to "technical glitches".

With the latest development, the Union government has once again come under fire from the Opposition, with senior Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi saying that not a single exam is "conducted with honesty".

The CUET-UG, which was supposed to be held on May 28, was rescheduled on May 30 due to Bakrid. The exam was to be held in two shifts, but several complaints were made on social media about disruptions in the first shift.

▸ CUET-UG, Page 7

> Four exams. One crore children. Not a single one conducted with honesty. Claims of 'vishwaguru', but can't conduct even one exam in the country –Modi ji has completely ruined the entire education system.
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI,** LoP

Student exposes 'rigged' tender

Sarthak Sidhant, a student who wrote the CBSE Class 12 exams, points at documents on the CBSE site which show that tender conditions were changed to benefit one company.

Details on Page 9

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- Research collaborations with Aster Hospitals, Bioinnovation (DBT)...
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*Offered in 50+ progs across various disciplines

Lokayukta seizes 17,000 tonnes of illegally mined sand in Shivamogga

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS

In a joint operation, Lokayukta teams from various districts on Saturday conducted raids at 25 places on the banks of Tunga, Bhadra, Tungabhadra and Sharavathi rivers in Shivamogga district and seized 17,000 tonnes of illegally mined sand and 52 vehicles used for its transportation.

The raids were conducted in Shivamogga, Bhadravathi, Thirthahalli, Hosanagar and Sagar taluks. Parallelly, the Lokayukta police raided the mines and geology department's Shivamogga district office and inspected documents.

The raids happened after Lokayukta Justice BS Patil registered a suo motu case based on complaints from the public and media reports about rampant illegal sand mining in the district.

During the operations, earth movers, heavy construction machines, tipper lorries, tractors, boats and sand filter machines used for sand mining were seized.

The raids were conducted by 15 teams of Lokayukta police led by Davangere Lokayukta SP BS Kaulapure and Shivamogga Lokayukta DySP BP Chandrashekhar. Lokayukta staff from Davangere, Chitradurga, Chikkamagaluru, Haveri and Belagavi were part of the operations.

Lokayukta staff with the seized sand and vehicles in Shivamogga district on Saturday.

Proposal to expand Lokayukta

Karnataka Upa Lokayukta Justice K N Phaneendra said a proposal will be sent to the government to appoint serving and retired judges as assistant Lokayukta at divisional and district levels. Page 6

Capable of resuming war with Iran: US

WASHINGTON, AFP: The US warned on Saturday it was "more than capable" of resuming war with Iran after President Donald Trump said any peace deal must adhere to his red lines, including Tehran never being able to develop nuclear weapons.

Pete Hegseth

Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth said that Washington was "more than capable" of restarting the war.

Meanwhile, Iran's IRNA news agency said air defences shot down a drone "belonging to the US-Zionist aggressor enemy".

Details on Page 10

Vinesh's Asiad dream ends at selection trials

NEW DELHI, PTI: Vinesh Phogat's return to competitive wrestling ended in heartbreak on Saturday following a 4-6 loss against Meenakshi Goyat in the 53kg semifinals of the Asian Games selection trials.

Vinesh thus fell short in her attempt to re-enter the national team after the trauma of the 2024 Paris Olympics.

"I do not feel I have failed. I was fighting a whole system. We had to fight for every point. I was not given a fair deal. I do not grudge the athletes who fought with me. They also had dreamt of fighting against me. I will come back," Vinesh said before leaving the venue.

Details on Page 13

RCB, GT chase second star & legacy

RCB and GT, two balanced and consistent sides, meet in a tactical IPL final with Rajat Patidar and Shubman Gill leading strong collective units chasing a second title

RCB VS GT

GT 4 — 9 Mats — RCB 5

This season: **P: 3 RCB: 2, GT: 1**

RCB results in finals

2009	2011	2016	2025
Vs **DC**	Vs **CSK**	Vs **SRH**	Vs **PBKS**
Johannesburg	Chennai	Bengaluru	Ahmedabad
Lost by 6 runs	**Lost by 58 runs**	**Lost by 8 runs**	**Won by 6 runs**

GT results in finals

2022	2023
Vs **RR**	Vs **CSK**
Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
Won by 7 wkts	**Lost by 5 wkts**

Overall record in N Modi Stadium

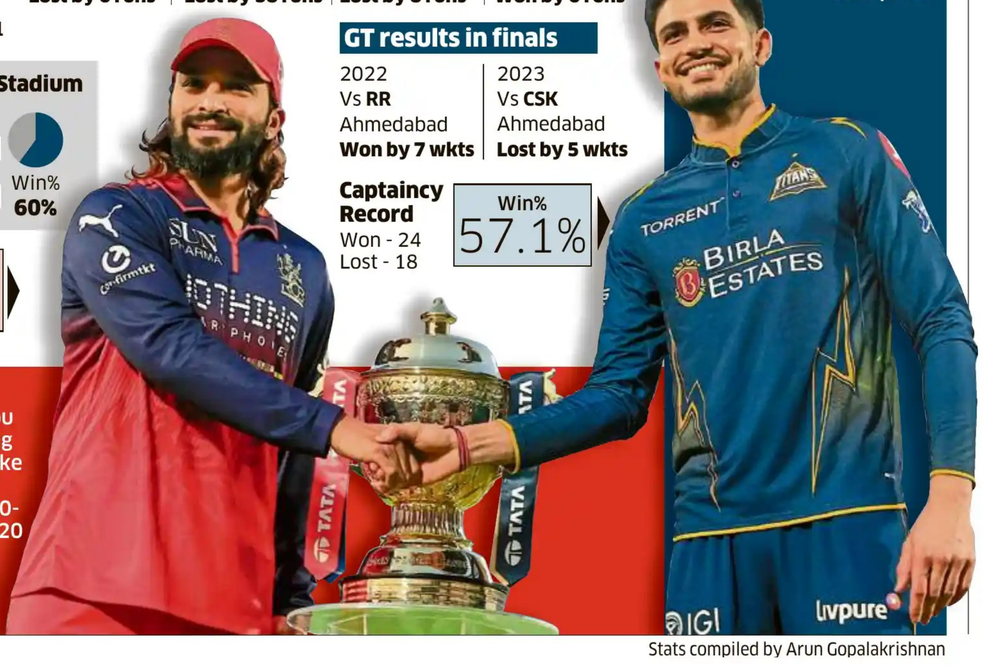
RCB		GT
8	Mats	30
4	Won	18
4	Lost	12
Win% 50%		Win% 60%

Captaincy Record Won - 19 Lost - 8 — Win% 70.4%

Captaincy Record Won - 24 Lost - 18 — Win% 57.1%

> If you want to win the competition, you need a good bowling attack. It's important to take wickets because on this track, it's easy to score 220-200. But defending 200-220 is more difficult.
>
> **RAJAT PATIDAR,** RCB captain

> I think preparation is what keeps me mentally fresh, knowing what I need to do the next week, next couple of weeks or in the next series or next tournament, and preparing for that.
>
> **SHUBMAN GILL,** GT captain



Stats compiled by Arun Gopalakrishnan

'They want to kill me': TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee attacked

ARKADEV GHOSHAL
KOLKATA, DHNS

Lok Sabha member and Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee rushed to a hospital on Saturday, hours after being attacked by a mob in Sonarpur, in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district.

His aunt, TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, shifted him to the Belle Vue clinic.

TMC's Kunal Ghosh said the police were being instructed to play down Abhishek's injuries so that hospitals would not admit him. Videos showed Abhishek being assaulted on his way to meet the family of Sanju Karmakar, one of the party functionaries killed in the post-poll violence.

Abhishek reportedly tried to go to Karmakar's house on a two-wheeler, but later went foot. On the way, he was allegedly pelted with eggs and footwear, and his clothes torn.

Abhishek told reporters at Karmakar's house: "They want to kill me. Let them. Let my lifeless body be taken out of here." He alleged police inaction, saying the cops had been informed of violence.

The TMC took to X to say that miscreants backed by the BJP attacked Abhishek. It asked: "If a sitting Opposition MP can be targeted in broad daylight, what hope is there for ordinary citizens?" Meanwhile, Mamata herself took to X saying: "RULERS BECAME KILLERS [sic]".

TMC's Abhishek Banerjee after he was attacked. PTI

2-3 yrs for theatre commands, says Army Chief

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India's long awaited theatre commands may have to wait for "another two to three years" for implementation, Chief of the Army Staff Gen Upendra Dwivedi said on Saturday, dropping clear hints that the much-debated reform proposal may not be realised immediately.

"The theatrisation is on the right track...We are hopeful that the new Chief of Defence Staff should be able to take the journey forward and in next 2-3 years we should be able to see it happening on the ground," Gen Dwivedi said at a media interaction on the sidelines of the passing out parade of the 150th course at Pune's National Defence Academy.

Details on Page 9

MERCURY DIP

State to get 3 more days of wet, cool weather; monsoon over a week away

BENGALURU, DHNS

It's time to pull out your sweaters and jackets as Bengaluru and several other parts of Karnataka will continue to receive pre-monsoon thundershowers for the next three to four days, marked by a dip in temperatures.

However, the situation will be different when the southwest monsoon sets in by the second week of June. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a weaker-than-normal monsoon over most of Karnataka, with above-normal temperatures.

Bengaluru and some eastern districts will be an exception and are expected to receive normal monsoon rainfall, said N Puviarasan, Scientist 'F' and head of the Meteorological Centre at IMD, Bengaluru.

An uprooted tree following strong winds and rain in Chikkamagaluru on Saturday. PTI

On Saturday morning, the minimum temperature in Bengaluru City fell to 19.8°C, a dip of 1.5°C and the lowest since 2023. The maximum temperature stood at 31.8°C, just 0.2°C below normal. While the near-normal maximum temperature meant the day was warm, the fall in minimum temperature gave Bengalureans a chillier night.

The city received 46 mm of rainfall in the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 am on Saturday, with another 10.6 mm in the evening.

Bengaluru City has received 195.3 mm of rainfall this May, well above the monthly average of 128.7 mm. However, rainfall has neither been uniform nor widespread across the city. HAL Airport, for instance, has received only 54.4 mm, far below its monthly average of 110.4 mm. Puviarasan explained that pre-monsoon showers would continue in parts of Karnataka for another three days.

On Sunday, parts of Coastal and South Interior Karnataka will receive heavy rain, while Bengaluru is expected to get moderate rainfall.

"The upper-air circulation is moving from east to west. There will be convective activity over Coastal and South Interior Karnataka. Temperatures will remain below normal for the next three days. Rainfall will then decrease until the monsoon arrives," he told *DH*.

In June, the official said, temperatures in Karnataka will stay above normal as the monsoon is expected to be weak.

"The situation is not very favourable for the onset of the monsoon. Even Kerala is expected to get it only around June 3 or 4. After Kerala, it usually takes two days for a strong monsoon to reach Karnataka. But since it will be a weak monsoon, Karnataka will most probably get it only by the second week of June," he explained.

Peninsular India, including districts in the Malnad region, is expected to receive below-normal monsoon rainfall, but eastern parts of Karnataka, including Bengaluru, are likely to receive normal rainfall.

In Bengaluru, many localities were flooded following Friday night's rain. GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao inspected affected areas on Saturday and ordered measures to prevent flooding. Bengaluru South City Corporation said it would increase the capacity of a stormwater at drain Silk Board Junction to 3.5 metres.

Rain across state

Heavy rain lashed may parts of the state, including Chikkamagaluru, Hassan and Chitradurga. The state's heaviest rainfall at 52.5 mm was recorded at Dasanuru village of Nanjanagud taluk, Mysuru district on Friday night.

IndianOil
CIN-L23201MH1959GOI011388

PUBLIC TENDER

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. plans to onboard suitable alliance partner(s) for developing, operating and maintaining Non-fuel Retail (NFR) facilities at Wayside Amenities (WSA) sites located on Delhi-Amritsar Katra Expressway (Haryana State) under Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model. Interested Parties may refer to the detailed tender document with auction ID: 34867 (Reference No.: MnC/RS-1/PT-14/26-27) which is available in 'Forward option tab' on GeM Portal (Website: https://gem.gov.in). Last date for submission of application is 26/06/2027 at 23.00 hrs.

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Expression of Interest (EOI)

NIFT Bengaluru invites EOI from eligible and experienced Legal Practitioners/Advocates for engagement as Legal Counsel on a monthly retainership basis
Last date for Submission: 15.06.2026.

The details for the same may checked or download from NIFT's website "www.nift.ac.in/bengaluru"

Joint Director

IPL final: Traffic cops announce measures for public safety

BENGALURU, DHNS: With RCB playing GT in the IPL final on Sunday, the Traffic Police have announced curbs, besides making it clear that they would take strict action against those indulging in drunken driving.

Traffic police will be on alert for drunken driving throughout the night. Police will also inspect vehicles at various locations, besides taking all necessary measures to prevent untoward incidents.

"Strict action will be taken against two-wheeler riders who engage in speeding, reckless driving, wheeling or drag racing, thereby causing inconvenience or endangering others. Members of the public may report such incidents to the 112 helpline," traffic police stated.

Police reiterated that victory celebrations on public roads will not be permitted. Vehicles must not be parked unnecessarily on roads or footpaths in a manner that obstructs free movement of traffic and pedestrians, they warned.

Police said that the unnecessary or excessive use of vehicle horns under the guise of celebrations is strictly prohibited. Driving dangerously by standing through or opening the vehicle's sunroof is prohibited.

All instructions issued by traffic police must be strictly complied with, the police said.

"People are requested to co-operate by adhering to the guidelines," they said.

No free metro travel for RCB fans: BMRCL

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has refuted social media posts and advertisements claiming cricket fans can travel for free on metro trains on Sunday, when RCB plays against GT in the IPL final at Ahmedabad.

In a statement, BMRCL said it had neither announced nor approved any scheme providing free travel for RCB fans or any others on Sunday.

Yellow Line gets 12th train

BMRCL has received the 12th train for Yellow Line. The six-coach trainset reached Hebbagodi depot last week and has been moved from unloading bay to RBL-1, an official said.

Testing will start next week and the train will enter passenger service by June-end, the official added. With 12 trains, peak-hour frequency will be about 5-6 minutes.

INTERVIEW Agency to prioritise ready-to-move-in apartments to improve occupancy

Vertical housing, grievance redress BDA's focus areas: Commissioner

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is at the centre of several key development projects in the city, from road development and housing schemes to civic amenities.

As the city grapples with rapid growth, the agency's role is at the forefront of better urban planning. In this interview, BDA commissioner **P Manivannan**, after almost an year in office, discusses new plans for housing projects, challenges and public grievance redress system with **Amullya Shivashankar of DH**.

Edited excerpts:

The BDA has several ongoing major projects, including building a new township, roads and elevated corridors. Which project do you believe will have the biggest impact on Bengaluru over the next 5 years?

The short tunnel at Hebbal, along with two elevated corridor projects, will make a great difference for traffic returning from Kempegowda International Airport, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout.

Along with the median road, they will decongest traffic arriving from Mysuru towards North Bengaluru and the layout is expected to bring about development in the western parts of Bengaluru. Shivaram Karanth Layout will cater to the demand for development in that area and can end potential illegal projects.

What are the biggest hurdles delaying the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR)/Bengaluru Business Corridor project? When can people realistically expect visible progress?

There are three sections in the PRR. The first section is the first 20 km. The tender was called and finalised within one and a half years. The project was delayed for the last 20 years. Farmers had issues with compensation we were offering for the land, which was reportedly less than market price. So, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has decided to provide land for land.

Bengaluru is witnessing rapid urban expansion, but also flooding, vanishing lakes and shrinking open spaces. How is BDA balancing development with environmental sustainability and livability?

It is a a shared responsibility between Greater Bengaluru Authority, Lake Development Authority and BDA. We have supported the lake development authority with the rejuvenation and management of Bellandur and Varthur lakes. We are also planting 15 lakh trees in Kempegowda Layout, as per the plan of BDA chairman N A Haris.

> One of the recent changes in BDA has been the public grievance system with the launch of new initiatives including Open House Meetings (OHMs), a 24/7 helpline, a Whatsapp helpline among others. So far, 67% of the grievances from OHMs have been resolved.
>
> **P MANIVANNAN**
> BDA commissioner

How is BDA's planning philosophy for housing projects changing in response to the city's expectations?

We are focusing on vertical projects and on ready-to-move in projects. On the administrative side, there is a lack of integration between the departments of BDA, so attempts to bring about the integration is underway. We are planning to buy bigger plots and go for high-rise apartments, which could cater to more people than layout projects. In Kempegowda Layout, occupancy is less than 5%, people do not want to buy until there is development and the same does not happen until people occupy sites. So, ready-to-move-in apartments where all amenities are available have become the first choice.

How are you coordinating with other agencies to ensure housing projects become fully functional residential communities?

We are focusing on old projects to understand the nuances of the buildings to not repeat them in the new projects and build trust among people. We are actively coordinating with Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), fire department and police to ensure livability and safety. In the affordable housing section, we are striving to make BDA the best.

How are you ensuring transparency and accountability in the new public grievance system?

One of the recent changes in BDA has been the public grievance system with the launch of new initiatives including Open House Meetings (OHMs), a 24/7 helpline, a Whatsapp helpline among others. So far, 67% of the grievances from OHMs have been resolved.

Documents are being scanned and uploaded to e-office in the presence of complainants and a seal, with the number of pages, is stamped to ensure the documents are not missing. Once it is on e-office, it can be tracked by officers. At the grievance window, we have employees from the postal department to upload the documents, not BDA employees. Once it enters the system, it is usually solved within 30 days. If not, the officer concerned is held accountable in the OHMs by me and the chairman.

What are the challenges and loopholes in your system?

The BDA has legacy issues. We have decades-old problems, which take 60% of our time and energy. We have to settle both old and new issues. Citizens are not patient enough. We cannot solve problems immediately, there is a system in place and officers are not citizen-centric. These are the issues we are trying to resolve.

How does the helpline system work?

We have employees round the clock who treat complaints like physical complaints. We ask people to send in scanned copies and register the complaint. At night, we also have a police officer to assist if we get any safety-related issues at any BDA project sites. We have different people to handle WhatsApp and social media complaints. We get about 500 complaints every day.

What are the future plans for the system?

We are making attempts to include public grievance as an act in BDA, so that it is followed without fail. We are planning to bring in MBA graduates in the helpline centres as we have a weak helpline system, people at the helpline should know about projects, like consultants for citizens. We also need end-to-end technology and streamlined processes to make it easier for citizens.

Police rescue man attempting to kill himself

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police were able to prevent a man, allegedly in mental distress, from taking his own life in East Bengaluru on Saturday morning.

The man in question attempted to jump to his death from an apartment building in Kasturi Nagar around 9.23am. A relative called 112, after receiving which Assistant Sub-Inspector Chowdappa, along with Head Constable Parashuram, who were patrolling the area, were dispatched to the building.

Working with personnel from the Fire and Emergency Services Department, the Hoysala patrolmen rescued the man, and were able to avert his suicide bid.

"He attempted suicide because his family had decided to take him to a hospital for his treatment. Our officers offered counselling, reassurance and support," read the police statement.

IN THE CITY

GENERAL

Jagatika Lingayat Mahasabha, Bengaluru District Unit: Basava Jayanti; Ghanalinga Shivayogigala Sabhabhavana, JSS Public School, Banashankari 2nd Stage; 10 am.

KS Pre-University College: Fresher's programme for first PU students; Raghuvanahalli, Kanakapura Road; 10 am.

Ascent Pre-University College: Fresher's programme for I PUC students and talent awards for II PUC students; Hesaraghatta Main Road; 10 am.

Preeti4Malleswaram: Workshop on reimagining Malleswaram ward 53; Resource persons: Ashish Verma, Reshma P S, Meera K; The Design Venue, 3rd Floor, Sylvestre Arcade, 11th Cross, Malleswaram; 10 am.

CULTURAL

Kalpataru Sahitya Kala Trust: Geeta Madhurya; Dr C Ashwath Kalabhavana, NR Colony; 9 am.

Adarsha Vathara Janagala Samskruthika Jagruti Vedike: Release of Sunil Kumar S's book 'Madhu Heerida Adharagalu'; 'Ammandira Amma Sushilamma' award to S G Susheelamma; Gandhi Bhavan, Sivananda Circle; 10.30 am.

Vaicharika Pragatipara Vedike: Samata Sambhrama marking the 135th birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar; Janapadaru Rangamandira, Nimbekaipura; 3 pm.

Akhila Karnataka Vishwakarma Mahasabha: State-level children's talent awards; Town Hall, 3 pm.

Kalachandira Kalamandira Trust: Presentation of the Minuguthare Sadbhavana Award in memory of actress Kalpana; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 3 pm.

Kaladarpana: Valedictory of Kaladarpana painting expo; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road; 4 pm.

Janajaneyara Sahiti Kalavidara Trust: Janajaneyara Nage Habba; Chowdaiah Memorial Hall5 pm.

Samskruthi Prakashana: Release of Praveen B M's poetry collection 'Mathilla Guruthu Ide'; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road; 5 pm.

Kadu Malleshwara Bayalu Ranga Mantapa: 234th Hunnime Haadu and Laya Lavanya percussion recital; Malleswaram; 6.30 pm.

Antaranga Bahiranga: Staging of two plays 'Bayibadki', at 4 pm, and 'Bayi Thumba Nakbidi' at 7 pm; Dr C Ashwath Kalabhavana, NR Colony.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

CITY WEATHER

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	31.8°C
Minimum	19.8°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	63%
Sunset (May 31)	6:42 pm
Sunrise (June 1)	5:52 am
Moonrise	5:58 pm
Moonset	4:44 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

City lost 949 trees to thunderstorm in a month

BENGALURU, DHNS

The city lost 949 trees and 2,066 tree branches to storms and heavy rain between April 29 and May 29, according to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

Although tree debris can still be seen on several roads, almost all fallen trees have been cleared from roadsides.

The highest number of tree falls was reported in the Bengaluru West City Corporation limits, where 330 trees and 919 branches fell. Most of these have been cleared, officials said.

Although GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao had directed officials to quickly remove trees, branches and debris remaining on roads and footpaths, the effort has not yielded the desired results. The civic body had shared phone numbers of forest department officials and the control room for citizens to report such cases. However, residents complained that officials often do not answer phone calls.

According to an official release, the West Corporation witnessed a large number of fallen trees and broken branches due to strong winds and heavy rain. These were cut and cleared on-site to ensure public safety and smooth traffic movement.

The transportation of felled trees is currently under way. Citizens who spot fallen trees along roadsides, footpaths or in public places have been requested to contact the helpline 1533, the West Corporation control room at 9480685703, or the designated forest officials.

Smoke billows from the burning building of Chitrakoota Kaushalya School in Nagadevanahalli on Saturday.

Massive blaze in school building; no casualties

BENGALURU, DHNS: A massive fire broke out at a private school in western Bengaluru on Saturday, officials said. No casualties or injuries were reported as the building was mostly empty due to summer holidays for students.

Fire department sources told *DH* that they received an alert at 9.55 am about a massive fire at the Chitrakoota Kaushalya School in Nagadevanahalli. Three fire tenders were immediately dispatched to the spot.

"Due to the immediate response, firefighters successfully doused the blaze and contained it from spreading further. The fire was seen on the top floor in the auditorium and then it spread. A short-circuit likely triggered it," a fire force official said.

While there were no casualties, some items, including furniture and other goods, were damaged.

An investigation has been launched to ascertain the cause, the official added.

Agniveers during their passing-out parade on Saturday.

Passing Out Parade for 2,181 Agniveers at MEG

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Madras Engineering Group and Centre conducted the Passing Out Parade (POP) for 2,181 Agniveers on Saturday, marking completion of their military training.

The ceremonial parade was held at the Govindaswamy Drill Square. Brigadier Ajay Singh Thakur, Commandant of the Madras Engineer Group and Centre, was the Reviewing Officer.

'Gaurav Padak' was presented to parents of the passing-out Agniveers. Parents participated in the ceremony by donning their sons with the rank insignia of 'Thambi Sapper,' marking their transition from trainees to soldiers of the Army, according to a news release.

Cop earns praise for act of kindness

BENGALURU, DHNS: A police constable has won praise after helping a differently-abled man cross the road during the heavy rains in the city on Friday.

He is Anil Kumar from Byatarayanapura traffic station.

Anil Kumar

A video shared widely on social media shows the differently-abled man struggling to cross the flooded road. After initially holding his hand, Kumar lifts him up, carries him on his shoulders and ensures he safely crosses the road.

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Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221

E-Open Tender Notice No:- S/RWP/E/2026-27/07 dated: 27.05.2026. Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites online **"e-Open Tender"**, through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website **www.ireps.gov.in**, for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. **(1) Tender No.:** 02265060A, **Short Description of item:** Design Manufacure, supply of one (01) Number of 10 tones electric oberhead travelling Crane, **Quantity:** 01 Nos, **Date of tender opening:** 26.06.2026 at 14:00 Hrs. **(2) Tender No.:** 02265060A, **Short Description of item:** 5 years Comprehensive AMC post commissioning warranty with Lifting Magnet and Major Electrical and Mechanical Parts, **Quantity:** 01 Nos, **Date of tender opening:** 26.06.2026 at 14:00 Hrs. **(3) Tender No.:** 02261031, **Short Description of item:** Heavy Duty Dry Basic Ramming Mass, **Quantity:** 163 MT, **Date of tender opening:** 26.06.2026 at 14:00 Hrs. 1. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in**

For PCMM/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2026-27/26

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public are hereby informed that my client HLC BUILDER & CONTRACTOR Rep. by its Proprietor, Sri.K.Hari Babu Naidu, having its registered office at No. 194, Sai Residency, Royal County Layout, J.P. Nagar, 8th Phase, Bangalore – 560 076, intending to purchase the schedule property from its owners Smt.B.Geetha Baliga D/o. Sri.M.Gopala Krishna Baliga and grand son Sri.Suraj Baliga.

Any person/s company Financial Institution, Firm etc, having any claim or objection for the proposed purchase or having any right, title or interest in the Schedule Property may contact or should lodge such claim and objection in writing with supporting documents within FIFTEEN DAYS from the date of publication failing which it will be presumed that there are no valid claims charges and encumbrance whatsoever over the Schedule Property and my client would proceed to complete the sale transaction, any claim received Lodged thereafter will not be considered.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Converted land bearing Sy. No.6/4, Converted from Agricultural to Non-Agricultural residential purpose Vide Official Memorandum bearing No.ALN(SU)SR/113/2006-07, dated: 27.01.2009, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, Situated at Gottigere Village, Uttrarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Presently comes under the limits of BBMP, having New BBMP Katha No.478/6/4 and E-PID No.5200491882, Ward No.194-Gottigere, measuring 0-23 Guntas, and bounded on: East by: Land belongs to Sri.Kaverappa (Presently BDA Layout) West by: 30 Feet Road, North by: Remaining Portion of same Sy. No.6/4, South by: Govt Land (Halla).

A.M.GAJENDRA, Advocate
No.2, 3rd Cross, 3rd Main, Srinivasanagar, Kathriguppe Main Road, Bangalore-560 085.
Ph. No.-9845562465
Bangalore Dated: 30.05.2026

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TENDER NOTICE

Quotations are invited from reputed firms for establishing **1) Laboratory Services, 2) Pharmacy Services & 3) Laundry Services.** At KRJS Medical College Hospital at Kasavanahalli, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru. Interested firms may send sealed quotations with in 07 days of this publication, address to The General Secretary, KRJS, Head office, Kormangala, Bangalore -34 or Mail it to **krjsho25@gmail.com**

For more details, Visit our website **www.reddyjanasangha.org** or Contact: **080-25534194 or 98450 23103, 94488 52738.**

Sd/- **President** Sd/- **General Secretary**

Find lasting solution to B'ghatta Rd waterlogging: GBA chief

BENGALURU, DHNS

Friday night's heavy rainfall left many areas flooded while heavy winds brought down numerous trees and their branches.

On Saturday, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao inspected some of the affected places and directed the officials to take necessary measures to prevent flooding in the future.

Rao, who noted that the stretch near Rainbow Children's Hospital on Bannerghatta Road gets waterlogged during every downpour, directed officials to take necessary measures to provide a permanent solution to the waterlogging problem.

He also observed that sewage was flowing into the stormwater drain near the Hulimavu metro station on Bannerghatta Road. The BWSSB has been asked to identify the source and take measures to prevent sewage from entering the stormwater drain.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao and other officials inspect ongoing works near a stormwater drain on Bannerghatta Road on Saturday.

To address the recurring waterlogging issue at Silk Board Junction, the Bengaluru South City Corporation has taken measures to increase the capacity of the stormwater drain.

"Works are underway to increase the capacity of the drain that passes under the road from 1.5 metres to 3.5 metres. Steel gratings are also being installed above the drain. The first phase of the work is almost complete, and the road will soon be opened for vehicular movement. The remaining two sections of the culvert work will be taken up in the second phase and completed by the end of June," the GBA said in a statement.

Rao also instructed officials to conduct a survey and submit a report for the construction of a new drain near Silk Board Junction to prevent waterlogging in HSR Layout.

At Silk Board Junction, Namma Metro has acquired a corner property to facilitate traffic movement from Bommanahalli towards BTM Layout. However, the complex located on the site has not yet been cleared. Rao, who spoke to metro officials over the phone, directed them to remove the complex and take necessary steps for the construction of a free left turn.

Development works under the Silk Board Junction flyover are in progress and officials were instructed to expedite the completion of beautification works, including the installation of street lighting.

Two arrested for serving beef at restaurant

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police have arrested two people for serving beef at their restaurant on the outskirts of Bengaluru, officials said on Saturday.

The arrested are Jiju Alexandar, 45, and Sibu K B, 43, both from Kerala. According to the police, the duo ran Kayaloram Restaurant near Budigere Cross, Bommanahalli.

A suo motu FIR was registered on May 19 following a complaint by Rajendra, head constable at the Avalahalli police station.

According to Rajendra, he received intelligence from his informant that beef was served at Kayaloram Restaurant, ISRI HUB. Following this, the head constable visited the restaurant and spoke to patrons by hiding the fact that he was a police officer. According to the FIR, Rajendra learnt that for the last few days, beef (cow meat) was being served and some had even consumed it.

The FIR noted that the owners were suspected of illegally storing the meat and serving it to consumers.

Sources said that preliminary inspection by officials concerned revealed that the meat was indeed beef.

Family planning onus still rests entirely on women: NFHS data

56.9% women undergo sterilisation, males nil

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The dependency on family planning continues to rest almost entirely on women, with 56.9% of women undergoing female sterilisation, compared to 0% of men undergoing male sterilisation, according to the National Family Health Survey-6 released on May 29.

Doctors and public health experts noted that cultural beliefs and standard practices have made women the default choice.

Female sterilisation is higher among rural women compared to their urban counterparts. About 62.8% of rural women aged 15-49 years have undergone female sterilisation, compared to 49.1% of urban women. Compared to NFHS-5, female sterilisation has declined by 0.5 percentage points.

The permanent contraceptive procedure for men is vasectomy. A vasectomy is a minor outpatient surgical procedure for permanent male contraception. It involves cutting and sealing the vas deferens tubes to prevent sperm from mixing with semen during ejaculation.

Explaining the resistance to vasectomy, Dr Giriraja Velayutham, Consultant - Urology and Renal Transplant, said, "The misconceptions about vasectomy are that it causes impotence, reduces sexual performance and is a major procedure. In reality, modern no-scalpel vasectomy is a minor procedure that takes less than 30 minutes, and men continue to function normally. In most cases, though not guaranteed, it is a reversible procedure."

Doctors and public health experts say that cultural beliefs and standard practices have made women the default choice for family planning.

Adding from her clinical experience, Dr Meghana Reddy Jetty, Senior Consultant - Obstetrics, Gynecology, Laparoscopy and Aesthetic Gynecology, said, "In some cases, couples already assume that the woman will undergo sterilisation, which can limit discussions about male options. Healthcare providers are increasingly working to raise awareness about vasectomy and its benefits, particularly its safety, simplicity, and shorter recovery time."

Compared to vasectomies, female sterilisation is a more complicated procedure and carries a higher risk of complications such as infection and bleeding.

Dr Jetty added, "For most men, they can go back home the same day. They commonly resume low-intensity activities within 48 hours. A woman's sterilisation is slightly more invasive since it requires access to the fallopian tubes, which lie in the abdominal cavity. The recovery period can take up to two weeks and may involve complications such as infection, bleeding, pain, anaesthesia-related problems and occasional organ damage."

Dr Sylvia Karpagam, a public health expert, said, "In many instances, women themselves stop their husbands from getting vasectomies because they think it would prevent them from working. There is a need for awareness and sex education so people can understand the procedure and make informed choices."

'Use of contraceptives decline'

The use of any form of contraception has declined from 68.7% to 64.8%. About 68.2% of the rural population and 60.3% of the urban population reported using some form of contraception.

HC admonishes ACF for filing criminal case against advocate in matrimonial case

Says such acts strike at very heart of independence of the bar

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has quashed criminal proceedings against a Bengaluru-based advocate in a case initiated by a woman Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF).

The advocate had represented two persons in a different case filed by the ACF.

"If every advocate, merely by a reason of appearing for a litigant, is exposed to criminal prosecution and trauma of investigative proceedings, the inevitable consequence would be a chilling and paralysing effect upon fearless discharge of professional responsibilities. The majesty of the legal profession cannot be permitted to be diminished by disgruntled litigants to wield criminal law as a weapon of intimidation against the members of the bar," Justice M Nagaprasanna said while allowing the petition filed by the advocate.

The ACF is involved in cases regarding her caste status while securing the job. Meanwhile, she also initiated a matrimonial case. The advocate represented two persons named by the officer in the matrimonial case. He filed an RTI application seeking certain information relating to the officer's caste to place it before the family court.

Pursuant to this, the ACF filed a complaint against the advocate and others under BNS sections 336(2), 336(3) and 340 for forgery. She argued that the advocate wanted to know beyond what is necessary to be presented before the family court and hence the investigation should continue.

After perusing the complaint, the court noted that the advocate's role in the entire episode of crime is appearing as counsel for two persons and procuring certain documents from the school, that too at the instance of his clients. There is not even a whisper of any overt act attributable to the petitioner-advocate which could legitimately invite the rigour of penal provisions against him, the court said.

"This court is encountering a plethora of cases, where advocates, who merely represent parties before courts of law in the discharge of their professional obligations, are themselves being dragged into criminal proceedings and arrayed as accused. The only "fault" attributable to such advocates, is that they appeared for their clients and articulated their cause before the concerned judicial forum," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

The court further admonished the complainant-officer for implicating the advocate. "This court deems it apposite to observe that any reiteration of such conduct in future, bereft of legal foundation, shall not only invite strict judicial scrutiny, but would also be viewed with utmost seriousness, for the dignity of legal profession and the sanctity of justice delivery system must remain inviolable."

Bidar mall employee alleges harassment, ends life

BIDAR, DHNS: A 22-year-old employee with a reputed mall ended his life by hanging from the ceiling of his house, over the alleged workplace harassment, at Rampure Colony in the city on Friday.

The victim, Lakshmikant Basayya Matapathi. was serving as a cashier at a Zudio store at Bommagondeshwara Circle off Mannalli Road. The Gandhi Gunj police have registered a case against the manager of the mall Kishore based on the complaint lodged by Basayya Matapathi, father of the victim. Following the suicide, family members and friends staged a protest in front of the mall.

"My son was working as a cashier at the Zudio store at Bommagondeshwara Circle for the past three months. Manager Kishore used to harass my son alleging misappropriation of money. My son had informed me about the constant harassment by the manager. He (Lakshmikant) had also shared a voice record of the same with his brother," the complainant alleged.

2 severed cow heads found: Ballari tense

BALLARI, DHNS: Tense situation prevailed in Ballari two severed heads of cows were found on Kappagal Road on Saturday. The severed body parts were concealed in a bag thrown by the side the road. As soon coming to know of the incident, BJP leaders and Hindu activists rushed to the spot and staged a protest by blocking roads. They demanded action against the individuals who slaughtered the cows. A team of police officials rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. A case has been registered in Gandhi Nagar police station.

At 98.08%, consolidated SSLC results climb up 18.04% from last yr

62.98% students clear exam-2; 8,385 improve results from exam-1

BENGALURU, DHNS

The consolidated results of SSLC exams this year has reached 98.08% with 62.98% students clearing SSLC examination-2, for which the results were announced on Saturday.

Compared to last year, the consolidated results have increased by 18.04 percentage points. In exam 1, this year, students had achieved 94.10% pass.

For exam 2, a total of 49,351 candidates appeared. Of these, 31,080 managed to clear it. Meanwhile, 11,854 students took the exam to improve their results and 8,385 saw improvements.

In SSLC-2, five more students secured 625 out of 625. Of this, one student is from a government school and the other 4 from private schools.

Among the students who improved their results, 136 secured 100% in first language, 76 in second language, 144 in third language, 52 in Maths, 126 in science and 68 in social science.

For freshers, the pass percentage in all subjects, barring first language, crossed 99% in consolidated results.

In first language, it was 98.98%. Among girls, 99% passed as against 97% for boys.

As much as 98% of students from government schools passed, marginally trailing behind unaided schools (98.63%).

Pass percentage has been the highest in English medium (98.96%) and lowest in Tamil medium (93%).

A district-wise analysis points out that Udupi clocked 99.58%, Mandya 99.43%, Dakshin Kannada 99.42% and Bengaluru rural 99.34%. Hassan, Haveri and Uttara Kannada are other districts with above 99%.

A total of 7,649 students who were unable to appear for exam 1 due to shortage of attendance appeared for exam-2 as private candidates and 603 have passed.

The marks cards will be available for downloading on digilocker and applications for photocopy of answer sheets, revaluation and recounting can be submitted through www.kseab.karnataka.gov.in.

Nrupathunga University convocation on June 2

BENGALURU DHNS: Nrupathunga University, Bengaluru will be holding the convocation ceremony for the second and third years together on June 2 with more than 1,081 students slated to receive their degrees.

During the convocation 18 students from various undergraduate and postgraduate courses will be feted with gold medals. Honorary doctorates will be awarded to six individuals including litterateur Prof S G Siddaramaiah, actor Jaimala Ramachandra, theatre artiste Sreenivas G Kappanna, and former police officer S Mariswamy.

Critic and writer H S Raghavendra Rao will deliver the convocation address and Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot will preside over the convocation ceremony.

Pre-monsoon showers on Saturday evening bring some respite from scorching heat in Ramanagara.

Thundershowers continue to lash south and central districts

BENGALURU, DHNS

Many parts of south interior Karnataka and central districts experienced heavy rains, accompanied by thunder activity and gusty winds on Saturday while most parts of north Karnataka continued to see dry spell.

Thundershowers, coupled with high-intensity winds, on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday caused widespread damage in Chikkamagaluru city, uprooting trees and electricity poles, thereby disrupting power supply in many areas. A spell of sharp showers and gusty winds brought down trees and snapped power lines in Kote Layout, Hosamane, Jayanagar and along the bypass road.

According to Mescom officials, 25 electricity poles and two transformers were uprooted in the coffee town in just one spell of thundershowers late Friday night. Roof tiles and metal sheets of several houses and the gymnasium at the district stadium were blown away in the strong winds that swept across the city. A portion of the compound wall of the Chikkamagaluru Club caved in.

Banana, arecanut and coconut plantations on several acres were damaged in Arasikere, Javagal and surrounding areas in Hassan district following a spell of heavy rain and gusty winds.

A spell of sharp showers on Saturday evening brought down soaring temperatures in Ramanagar town. Waterlogging was reported at several roads, causing grave hardship to the commuters.

Mysuru city and parts of the district, including Hunasuru, Periyapatna and Nanjangud taluks, continued to witness rains with thunder and lightning for the second day on trot on Saturday. Copious pre-monsoon showers have spurred kharif sowing in the district.

Mandya and Kolar districts saw a good spell of pre-monsoon showers in the evening. Mandya received 30 mm of rain in just one hour while Maddur recorded 31.5 mm rain.

Parts of Tumakuru, Chitradurga and Davangere districts also experienced showers in the evening. The rain brought some respite from the searing heat in the central districts.

TEST READ

A teacher takes stock of the textbooks stocked in a godown in Haveri on Saturday. The schools in the state have reopened after summer vacation. DH PHOTO

Shobha Karandlaje demands probe into Rs 39,500-crore garbage contract

BENGALURU, DHNS: Union Minister of State for MSMEs and Labour & Employment Shobha Karandlaje on Saturday demanded a comprehensive probe into Bengaluru's Rs 39,437-crore integrated solid waste management tender after serious allegations emerged over changes in project planning, tender evaluation and financial approvals that allegedly favoured a select private player.

In her letter written to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, the Bangalore North MP sought an independent inquiry into the entire tender process and fixing accountability on all officials involved, while also calling for a CBI or Lokayukta investigation if prima facie irregularities are established.

Karandlaje alleged that a sudden change in the Detailed Project Report (DPR) consultant triggered a substantial increase in project costs and tipping fees. The DPR was originally prepared by RITES Ltd and had fixed the tipping fee following technical scrutiny and committee approval. However, the consultant was subsequently replaced with Boston Consulting Group (BCG), a move she described as unexplained and contrary to procurement norms. The change resulted in what she termed an unjustified financial escalation over the original valuation.

The letter also raised questions over the manner in which bidders were evaluated across successive tenders. According to Karandlaje, entities that were disqualified on technical grounds during the second tender process were later treated as technically qualified in the third round without any transparent disclosure of changes in eligibility criteria. The reversal, she said, creates apprehensions of manipulation in technical evaluation to suit predetermined private interests.

The minister claimed that the financial aspects of the tender also warranted scrutiny. The lowest quoted bids were allegedly far above acceptable limits and continued to remain significantly above prescribed thresholds even after negotiations. She cited a Finance Department circular dated May 10, 2022, which mandates cancellation and re-tendering when bids exceed 10% of the estimated project value.

Another major concern flagged in the letter relates to land acquisition for waste management facilities. Karandlaje said the Finance Department had objected to a proposal seeking to enhance land compensation from Rs 1.35 crore per acre, fixed by the competent price determination committee, to Rs 1.5 crore per acre.

According to the letter, officials justified the enhancement on the basis of "intangible benefits," a rationale that the Finance Department reportedly rejected as being unsupported by any codified financial rules.

The minister alleged that despite the Finance Department's categorical objections and refusal to concur with the proposal, the matter was escalated for Cabinet approval. This, she said, raises questions about whether decision-makers were fully apprised of the department's concerns and on what basis those objections were ultimately disregarded.

Karandlaje also claimed that the government had originally stipulated that tender finalisation could proceed only after the required land was free of encumbrances and available under government possession. However, reports indicated that these conditions had not been fulfilled when the tender process moved ahead. The proposal to purchase private land at enhanced compensation rates had itself been opposed by the Finance Department, making subsequent tender finalisation arbitrary, she alleged.

The letter also refers to allegations in the public domain regarding direct and indirect links between successful bidders and previously tainted waste management operators. While not naming any entities, Karandlaje said such allegations warranted urgent scrutiny.

Civil society groups protest against SIR, demand 6 months for voters to submit papers

BENGALURU, DHNS

Civil society groups on Saturday staged a protest at Freedom Park in the city against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The protestors expressed concerns and demanded a ban on the system of data classification set up by the Election Commission of India (ECI), fearing that genuine voters would be left out over issues such as spelling mistakes and dates.

The members of civil society groups stage a protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/M S MANJUNATH

The protest was also staged in other districts, including Vijaypura, Kolar, Mandya and Mysuru. Namma Vote, Namma Hakku, Eddelu Karnataka, Karnataka Janashakthi and other organisations participated in the protest.

Protestors recalled the recent deletion of over 90 lakh voters in West Bengal and demanded that such an incident not be repeated in Karnataka. They demanded that the voters' list be made public after the draft is ready in a computer-readable format, allowing people to look up voter details. After the draft list is prepared, gram sabhas must be compulsorily convened to conduct a public review before finalising the list.

Currently, the SIR gives about a month's time to submit applications and produce necessary documents to be added to the list.

The protestors said a minimum timeframe of six months must be provided to submit applications and furnish the necessary documents.

The protestors also urged the state government to take effective steps to protect voters' interests by issuing smart cards, convening special grama and ward sabhas for open verification, and providing assistance to secure documents for people lacking them.

The protestors warned of a massive protest on June 20, when SIR training is scheduled to begin, if the ECI does not respond positively to their demands.

ACADEMIC ABYSS? Lesser enrolment, pension burden, staff crunch hit functioning

Quality compromised as split impoverishes old varsities

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS

The state-run parent universities have been struggling to fulfil financial commitments to retired employees after the government's move to split them.

The previous BJP government launched the 'One District, One University' initiative to decentralise administration and reduce workload on massive affiliating universities.

However, splitting these institutions plunged six parent universities into deep financial and administrative crisis due to dwindling internal resources as they lost substantial affiliation, registration and exam fees.

Grants cut

The universities are finding it difficult to pay pension benefits to retired employees as the government is paying only 50% of grants for this purpose by putting onus on them to generate resources for rest of the expenditure.

Declining student enrolment, static government funding and staff crunch have dealt a severe blow to the parent universities after the split, jeopardising quality of higher education.

Karnatak University in Dharwad, Gulbarga University, Kuvempu University in Shivamogga, University of Mysore (UoM), Mangalore University and Bangalore University were bifurcated or trifurcated over the last few years.

This helped distribute heavy burden of managing hundreds of affiliated colleges. But the cash-starved parent universities are reeling under deficits as they are burdened with pension payments, unlike newly established universities.

UoM vice-chancellor Prof N K Lokanath said disbursing monthly pension benefits of Rs 10 crore to 1,976 retired employees presented a tough challenge.

However, he maintained that the Rs 100 crore grant (for all parent universities put together) sanctioned by the government for this purpose in this year's budget would last for 7 to 8 months.

"Our university is confined to Mysuru district after independent universities were carved out for Mandya and Hassan. More than 200 colleges were affiliated to us before the division and this has reduced to merely 100. We are running the university with only 20% of sanctioned permanent teaching staff, which adversely impacts education standards. So, we have sought more funds from the government," he said.

Gulbarga University V-C Prof Shashikant Udikeri said the university incurred annual expenditure of Rs 75 crore to Rs 80 crore, including pension benefits. But it can internally generate only around Rs 5 crore through student admission fees.

The internal resources have reduced considerably after the establishment of Bidar and Raichur universities, which resultied in a fall in student strength from 25,000-30,000 to 11,000.

The government released a Rs 100 crore grant in January and Gulbarga University's share of Rs 15 crore helped pay pensions to retired employees for a few months, he said.

The government has been directly paying pensions to its retired employees through the Human Resource Management System (HRMS), an integrated centralised software platform that automates core HR processes, including payroll.

The Gulbarga University incurs an annual expenditure of Rs 75 crore to Rs 80 crore, including pension benefits. But generates only around Rs 5 crore through student admission fees.

"The same process should be followed by the government for paying retirement benefits to university employees. But it has directed us to earmark some part of internal financial resources to disburse pensions, which is a difficult task. I have been facing a lot of pressure as the university's financial condition is worsening," Udikeri said.

Bangalore University has its own statute in which pension benefits are distributed from interest earned on fixed deposits. So, it is not feeling the burden of retirement benefit payments, totalling Rs 110 crore every year.

However, the university's trifurcation into Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University and Bengaluru North University reduced the revenue of the parent university on the Jnana Bharathi campus, adversely affecting development activities.

"We are finding it difficult to undertake works like renovation and painting of buildings belonging to various departments due to fall in internal revenue sources after trifurcation. Student enrolment has reduced by 30% after trifurcation and establishment of Maharani Cluster University and Nrupathunga University. But the government pays only Rs 10 crore - Rs 15 crore for pension benefits, which is not enough," V-C Prof Jayakara Shetty M said.

Karnatak University in Dharwad, state's second-oldest, is battling a financial crisis for the past six years. It is crippled by acute shortage of teaching and non-teaching staff.

According to Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar, only 29.32% of sanctioned posts are currently filled. This severe shortfall has adversely impacted the university's academic progress. Student enrolment in postgraduate courses has also been declining. Nearly half of the seats remain vacant in some departments.

The fate of Kuvempu University in Shivamogga and Mangalore University is no different. They resorted to cost-cutting measures like fee hikes, delaying pensions and halting certain academic programmes.

Retired economics professor Vasudev Sedam, who was part of the four-member Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee headed by M Govinda Rao, said the government failed to provide required facilities and grants while pursuing 'One District, One University' initiative.

"The government did not appoint qualified teachers after posts fell vacant in parent universities. This affected quality of higher education, resulting in students shifting to other educational institutions," he said.

Aspirants aplenty for education portfolios in new Cabinet

Three MLCs, also educationists, among contenders

BENGALURU, DHNS

The countdown to the formation of the new Cabinet having started, legislators in the Congress are busy lobbying for ministerial berths. For instance, at least three MLCs are reportedly lobbying hard to secure the School Education, and Higher Education portfolios in the new Cabinet.

MLCs Manjunath Bhandary, Puttanna and M R Seetharam, all three of whom have a background in education, are relying on those very credentials to secure either of the two education portfolios.

While Bhandary, who is known to be close to the Congress high command, runs the Sahyadri Group of Institutions in Dakshina Kannada, Seetharam runs the prestigious Ramaiah Group of Institutions, and has served as a minister before. Puttanna, one of the longest-serving legislators, owns the Sadhana Group of Institutions.

Sources said that Bhandary's chances of securing a Cabinet berth look bright, given his proximity to the high command, and the many important positions he has held in the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC).

"He has been actively involved in party affairs since his student days. He has held several positions in the National Students' Union of India and Youth Congress. Given his seniority, the chances of him being inducted into the Cabinet are high," said a source.

Seetharam, a former minister and two-time MLA, was in New Delhi a few days ago lobbying for a Cabinet berth. "It may be difficult for the party to find a place for Seetharam if it considers the caste calculus," said another source.

In fact, Basavaraj Rayareddi, who served as the Higher Education Minister during Siddaramaiah's first term as CM, is reportedly eyeing the same post now. "Although he is a senior, his chances are slim, since there are several aspirants from the Lingayat community," said a source.

Puttanna too was in New Delhi to confer with the high command leaders and lobby for the School Education portfolio. Caste equations are likely to play spoilsport with his chances as well since there are far too many aspirants in the Vokkaliga community.

On the other hand, the Congress high command is unlikely to unseat Madhu Bangarappa as School Education Minister. Given the reverence Madhu's father and former CM S Bangarappa is held in, he is likely to retain his position in the new Cabinet as well.

"A few Shivamogga-based leaders are exerting pressure on the party to exclude Madhu from the Cabinet, but it is unlikely that the high command will yield to them," said another source.

Senior leader B K Hariprasad is yet another contender for the School Education Minister's position. "Hariprasad's induction may spell bad news for Madhu. But the high command is contemplating elevating Hariprasad to the AICC, and sending him to the Rajya Sabha," the source added.

Event to launch work on KPS put off

BENGALURU DHNS: The School Education and Literacy department has put off the foundation stone laying ceremony of 800 Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) buildings, scheduled at Shivamogga on June 1.

According to the sources, the department has decided to go ahead with the regular school reopening.

"The plan earlier was to launch reopening of schools with mega-live interaction of parents with the chief minister. Now with the changed circumstances it has been decided to proceed with the usual reopening," the source said.

Senior leaders oppose appointing young MLAs as deputy CMs

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Senior Congress leaders, who served as ministers in the Siddaramaiah government, including G Parameshwara, M B Patil and Ramalinga Reddy, have opposed the appointment of young legislators as deputy chief ministers in the new government, sources said.

Parameshwara and Patil met Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal on Friday to convey their concerns, the sources said.

The opposition comes amid speculation over the possible elevation of Priyank Kharge, son of Mallikarjun Kharge, and Yathindra, son of outgoing chief minister Siddaramaiah, as deputy CMs.

The sources said the senior state leaders have made it clear to the party leadership that they would be unwilling to serve under younger leaders in the government.

They are said to have conveyed that if the party proceeds with appointing young legislators as deputy chief ministers, they would prefer to stay out of the government and instead, work for the organisation.

They said senior leaders Ramalinga Reddy and K J George also shared similar views with the central leadership.

Initially, newly elected Congress Legislature Party leader D K Shivakumar was also opposed to the appointment of multiple deputy chief ministers, arguing that it could create additional power centres.

However, the Congress high command is understood to be considering the appointment of three DCMs, representing Lingayats, Scheduled Castes and minorities.

Parameshwara as KPCC chief, George to RS?

Meanwhile, with former home minister Parameshwara's name being considered for the post of Speaker, he has reportedly expressed a preference for serving as Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president instead.

The sources said Shivakumar has also backed Parameshwara for the state unit chief's post.

Although senior ST leader Satish Jarkiholi is said to be lobbying for the KPCC presidency, several leaders have opposed his candidature.

The sources indicated that Jarkiholi, once considered a close confidant of Siddaramaiah, no longer enjoys the backing of the Kuruba leader.

They said he has, of late, sought to maintain closer ties with Shivakumar amid the shifting power dynamics within the party.

Separately, former minister George is reportedly seeking a Rajya Sabha nomination and is considering vacating his Sarvagnanagar Assembly seat, if he is picked to contest the election to the upper house of Parliament.

Sources said George is keen to field his son, Rana George, in the by-election if he does get nominated to the Rajya Sabha and he resigns from the Assembly.

13 arrested for making, selling country pistols in Khanapur

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Khanapur police arrested 13 people who were allegedly engaged in the making and selling of country pistols. Among those arrested are the makers of the pistols, suppliers of raw materials and buyers. Police have seized more than eight country pistols from them.

Superintendent of Police K Ramarajan told reporters here that constable Sidram Ajjappa Hazare had gathered intelligence from his sources that Maruti Srikant Sutar of Katagali village in the taluk was illegally manufacturing country pistols. A case was filed at the Khanapur police station. Sutar was arrested on May 11, and one country pistol in his possession was confiscated.

The remaining suspects were arrested later and eight pistols recovered from them. Among those arrested was Ningappa Nayak, a resident of Kalenatti in Belagavi, who had paid Sutar to manufacture the country pistols.

Proposal to expand Lokayukta to divisional, dist levels

YADGIR, DHNS

Justice K N Phaneendra

Upa Lokayukta Justice K N Phaneendra said that a proposal would be submitted to the government to appoint current and retired judges as assistant Lokayuktas at the divisional and district levels to strengthen the anti-corruption institution.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, he said the move would help the Lokayukta institution function more effectively and ensure quicker disposal of public grievances.

Justice Phaneendra said Lokayukta offices should be established at the divisional level in Kalaburagi, Mysuru and Dharwad, along with Lokayukta police stations in every district. He stressed the need to strengthen the institution's internal vigilance wing.

"If the government grants permission, we will undertake surprise visits to districts to resolve public grievances at an early stage," he said.

He also called for reforms to the Lokayukta police wing, noting that police officers and staff are currently deputed from their parent departments for short tenures of two to three years.

"Instead of the deputation system, the Lokayukta institution should have independent powers to appoint officers who work with dedication and honesty," he said.

Highlighting staff shortage, Justice Phaneendra said the Lokayukta Superintendent of Police (SP) in Kalaburagi was currently holding additional charge of five districts.

"In view of such shortages, a proposal will also be sent to the government to appoint retired military officers or officers of equivalent rank to the posts of Lokayukta SP and DySP," he added.

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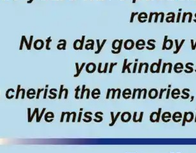
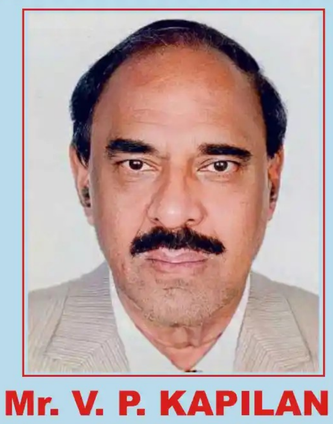
In Loving Memory

FLORENCE CHARLES
14-06-1933 - 28-05-2026
Funeral on Monday June 1st 2026 | Viewing at Home 10 am to 1 pm
Church Service at 3 pm, Emmanuel Church, Cooke Town
Interment at 5 pm, Hosur Road Protestant Cemetery, Gate No.4.

BJP: Revisiting guarantees is harassment

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP MLA Dr C N Ashwath Narayan, on Saturday, flayed the government's reported move to revisit the Gruha Lakshmi and Gruha Jyoti schemes.

He told a press meet, "People did not ask for guarantees and it was a promise made by the Congress for votes. While announcing the schemes, they said it was for everyone. Revising the criteria now is nothing but harassment".

He said the state had not seen any development in the last 3 years.

3rd Death Anniversary

Mr. V. P. KAPILAN
Date of Death: 31-05-2023
Three years have passed since you left us, yet your presence remains as strong as ever.
Not a day goes by without thinking of your wisdom, your kindness and the love you shared.
We cherish the memories, and the unwavering love that guides us.
We miss you deeply but carry you with us always.
Fondly Remembered by:
Wife, Children, Grandchildren, Relatives and Friends.

After defeat of TMC, DMK, Cong cautious on K'taka strategy

'Siddu's popularity, guarantees, Ahinda won't suffice to keep voters happy'

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Shaken by the electoral defeats of DMK in Tamil Nadu and Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal, despite their heavy reliance on guarantee schemes, the Congress has decided to pursue a comprehensive revamp of both the government and party organisation in Karnataka, looking beyond Siddaramaiah to boost its prospects in the 2028 Assembly elections, sources said.

Like Siddaramaiah, M K Stalin and Mamata Banerjee were very popular in their respective states, and they had announced several guarantee schemes. However, voters rejected them, sending a signal that freebies alone do not win polls, said a Congress leader.

The top leadership concluded that depending solely on Siddaramaiah and welfare schemes will not be sufficient to retain power, sources said.

Siddaramaiah will turn 80 by the time of the next polls, raising concerns about his ability to lead an effective campaign amid an expected decline in popularity due to age and anti-incumbency.

Congress general secretary K C Venugopal addressess a press meet after the Congress Legislature Party meeting in Bengaluru on Saturday. Caretaker Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Chief Minister designate D K Shivakumar are seen. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

The sources said internal assessments had highlighted governance fatigue after three years of Congress in power, compounded by rivalry between the factions of Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar.

Siddaramaiah's recent announcement that he would not contest the 2028 elections further triggered unease among legislators, prompting them to look for a new face to lead the government and party, they said. Also, feedback from the ground has been less than positive on a second term for the current dispensation, with growing public resentment becoming evident. It suggested the need for fresh leadership and new ideas to address public discontent. Though the Congress won the recent Assembly bypolls, the high command sensed underlying unpopularity, sources said.

Siddaramaiah eventually yielded to the push for change, realising that failure to do so could lead to legislators drifting away, they said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is understood to have suggested dropping some ministers and inducting younger faces.

"The party is now focused on re-energising its organisation and governance model with an eye on 2028," said a leader.

Acknowledging Siddaramaiah's popularity as Ahinda leader, the party top brass believes the organisation must now look beyond Ahinda politics and adopt a more inclusive approach by reaching out to other communities, the leader said.

Ahinda is the Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes and Dalits. The party opted for Shivakumar as he has good organising skills, is ready to take bold decisions and is confident of taking all communities along, said the leader.

DKS to take ...

DKS, From Page 3

In the meeting, Siddaramaiah first moved a one-line resolution authorising the party high command to decide on the next leader, which was seconded by G Parameshwara and adopted via a show of hands.

The meeting then took a 10-minute break, during which Siddaramaiah, Venugopal and Surjewala held discussions. On their return, Siddaramaiah formally proposed Shivakumar's name as the new CLP leader. Seconded by Parameshwara, it was unanimously approved. Soon after his election, Shivakumar moved a resolution thanking Siddaramaiah for his services.

Now, glitches hit...

CUET-UG, From Page 3

The NTA, in a statement, said that Tata Consultancy Services, the company rolling out the exams, "has reported a technical glitch", which delayed the start of the exam at some centres. It also said that, due to the delay, the evening shift was postponed from 3 pm to 4 pm.

"Morning-session candidates are being given the full duration of the paper and may exit only after completing it ... The issue has since been resolved, and the exam is being conducted with full compensatory time so that no candidate is disadvantaged. NTA sincerely regrets the inconvenience caused to students and parents," it said.

"We understand that 3,765 candidates who were present and had completed biometric registration chose to leave before the exam could restart. For these candidates, the NTA will hold a rescheduled examination as a one-time measure," it said, adding that the new date and details will be announced soon.

The exam body has asked students to follow the NTA website (nta.ac.in) and the CUET-UG portal (cuet.nta.nic.in) for updates, and advised students to reach out to 011-40759000 or cuet-ug@nta.ac.in for help.

Rahul, who has been criticising the Centre over the issue, said the government is incompetent.

"Four exams. One crore children. Not a single one conducted with honesty. Claims of 'world guru', but can't conduct even one exam in the country —Modi ji has completely ruined the entire education system... The generation whose future you are destroying — that same generation will hold you accountable," he posted on X.

Economy shows 'cautious resilience' amid global, monsoon risks: FinMin

'Duration of Strait of Hormuz disruption key variable'

NEW DELHI, PTI

With forecasts pointing to a below-normal monsoon and a likely moderation in economic activity, overall consumption demand may face headwinds in the coming months, and the near-term outlook for the Indian economy is one of cautious resilience, the finance ministry said in a report on Saturday.

However, domestic fundamentals remain broadly intact, manufacturing and services PMIs are in expansionary territory, the labour market is stable, and foreign exchange reserves provide meaningful insulation against external shocks, the finance ministry said in its latest Monthly Economic Review.

At the same time, it said, the global environment has become materially more challenging since the onset of the West Asia conflict, with elevated crude prices, tightening financial conditions, and weakening growth momentum across major economies posing headwinds that India cannot fully insulate itself from.

The West Asia conflict has emerged as a major shock to the already fragile global recovery, with its effects increasingly visible across energy markets, supply chains, trade routes and global financial conditions.

Elevated energy, transportation and logistics costs have revived inflationary pressures and renewed stagflation concerns across major economies, it said.

Confronted with these pressures, major central banks are expected to maintain restrictive monetary policy stances for longer than previously anticipated, pushing sovereign bond yields in advanced economies to multi-year highs, it said.

Across emerging markets, the impact remains uneven; energy-importing economies face mounting pressures from currency depreciation, capital outflows, and higher import bills, while commodity exporters remain relatively better positioned, it said.

The report said the Indian economy maintained its growth momentum in April 2026, with E-way bill generation, PMI indices and electricity consumption remaining in expansionary territory.

However, the moderation in the Eight Core Industries Index and fuel consumption signals that global headwinds are gradually finding their way into select segments of domestic activity, it said.

On the inflation outlook, the report said, it warrants vigilance.

The current divergence between retail inflation and wholesale prices signals that upstream cost pressures are building, and the passthrough to consumers, while limited so far, may not be far behind, it added.

The recent hike in petrol and diesel prices may activate direct and indirect transmission channels, and any further escalation in energy prices could narrow the existing cushion more quickly than anticipated.

A deficient monsoon could add food price pressures on top of energy-driven ones. However, second-round effects and their persistence must be evident in the data for policy responses to be triggered, it said.

Looking ahead, the report said, the duration of the Strait of Hormuz disruption remains the single most consequential variable for India's external and price outlook.

Should normalisation occur soon, it said, the conditions for a broader-based recovery, supported by strong services exports and sustained investment commitments, are in place.

"Policy will need to remain agile across monetary, fiscal, and structural dimensions to navigate this period of compounded uncertainty, external and climatic, while keeping medium-term growth objectives firmly in view," it said.

Overall, India's macroeconomic position in May 2026 reflects cautious resilience, it said, adding that strong services exports, adequate foreign exchange reserves and a stable labour market provide a firm foundation.

However, it said, the confluence of elevated global energy prices, a depreciating rupee, rising upstream cost pressures and the prospect of a below-normal monsoon calls for sustained policy vigilance.

Navigating FY27 will require agility across monetary, fiscal and structural dimensions to safeguard growth momentum and keep inflation durably anchored, even as the global environment remains uncertain, it added.

GRINDING HALT

A driver rests beneath a truck as drivers suspend transport of goods as a mark of protest on NH-37 in Imphal, Manipur on Saturday. The protest comes after a truck driver from West Bengal was killed and a police constable was injured when suspected militants fired at a convoy of goods vehicles in Ukhrul district on Friday. PTI PHOTO

KSRTC's 'most-disciplined' Volvo driver retires after 34-yr service

BENGALURU, DHNS: Joseph Machado, the most-disciplined driver with KSRTC, retired from service on May 29, after 34 years of service.

Joseph Machado

Machado, who primarily drove buses on Bengaluru-Mangaluru route, which includes the circuitous Western Ghats terrain, was "never a trip late, never a rash turn, always a smile for every passenger," KSRTC said.

A farewell function was organised for him on May 29.

'Liberty is not trivial': SC awards man Rs 11 lakh over illegal detention

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said that liberty cannot be allowed to be a bureaucratic casualty.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Augustine George Masih directed the Rajasthan government to pay Rs 11 lakh in compensation to a convict kept behind bars for 24 days despite a high court order granting him permanent parole.

Allowing a plea by Daudayal for compensation, the bench said, "The liberty of an individual is not a trivial matter. The state cannot continue curtailing it in the face of a court order, on account of its slow bureaucratic processes of taking decisions whether to file appeals in a particular matter or not."

The court rejected the state's contention that the matter was then under contemplation for appeal.

"...[I]t is well settled that mere preferring of an appeal would not, by itself, operate as a stay of the order," the bench said.

The court also underscored that if the state's view was agreed with, it would amount to the liberty of a person being placed below the decision of whether to file an appeal, which was purely an administrative call.

"A judicial order or decree remains in operation unless stayed, modified, or set aside; mere filing of an appeal or application would not, by itself, automatically keep the order in abeyance," added the bench.

On compensation, the bench held that once parole had been granted and sureties produced to the satisfaction of the concerned court, the non-release became illegal detention.

"Once the detainee has been ordered to be released, it has to be followed no matter what. The only scenario in which it would not be so done was if a superior court granted a stay in the matter. Just because a person had been convicted does not mean that his rights weigh less on the scales of justice," the bench said.

Appellant Daudayal was convicted by a trial court in 1988 in connection with a 1967 case on allegations of unlawful assembly, house trespass, and culpable homicide not amounting to murder. He was sentenced to four years of rigorous imprisonment.

In 2021, the Rajasthan HC affirmed his conviction and sentence. In 2023, while serving his sentence, he applied for permanent parole, which prison authorities rejected. Subsequently, he approached the HC.

On November 5, 2024, a single-judge bench of the HC ordered his release on parole subject to certain conditions. Even though he complied with the conditions and his sureties were verified on November 13, 2024, he remained in prison.

He moved a division bench of the HC, which directed his immediate release on December 6, 2024.

He approached the Supreme Court seeking compensation for the time he was forced to remain in jail despite the parole order.

SC acquits two men facing death penalty in 2012 rape-murder case

'Prosecution's case not proven beyond reasonable doubt'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has acquitted two men who were sentenced to death by the trial court and had their conviction upheld by the Uttarakhand High Court in the rape and murder of a 55-year-old woman in 2012.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and Vijay Bishnoi set aside the concurrent findings of guilt, holding that the prosecution failed to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt and that both the trial court and the high court had overlooked serious infirmities in the evidence.

The court allowed the appeals filed by Mehtab and Sushil alias Bhura, ordering their immediate release from jail. The court had stayed their execution in 2018.

The incident occurred on December 29, 2012, when the victim had gone to the forest in Uttarakhand to graze goats around 2 pm. Her half-naked body was later found, and there were bite marks on her face and other parts.

The prosecution alleged she was sexually assaulted and murdered. The two men were arrested on January 3, 2013. The case rested entirely on circumstantial evidence, including the "last seen together" theory and recoveries made at the instance of the accused.

In its May 27 judgment, the apex court noted several critical gaps in the prosecution's case, including the "last seen together" circumstance was not established beyond doubt.

It also noted that the forensic evidence was inconclusive. No DNA profiling was done to link the semen or bloodstains to the accused. Significantly, medical examination revealed that Mehtab suffered from a condition that made sexual intercourse impossible, casting serious doubt on the prosecution's theory of motive.

The bench observed that the evidence suffered from material inconsistencies, procedural irregularities and serious infirmities that struck at the root of the prosecution case.

"The prosecution has miserably failed to establish any of the so-called incriminating circumstances so as to connect the appellants with the crime in question," the court said.

It added that in a case based solely on circumstantial evidence, the prosecution must establish an unbroken chain of circumstances pointing unerringly to the guilt of the accused, which was not done here.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast May 31: Rainfall to occur at few places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	34	24	00
Bidar	40.8	26	00
Vijayapura	39	24	00
Dharwad	34	23	00
Haveri	32.4	24	00
Kalaburagi	40.4	26.4	00
Raichur	37.4	23.2	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	33.3	26.2	1.6
Karwar	35.4	26.8	0.9
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	33.6	25.4	23.2

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	29.9	23	0.5
Bengaluru	32.1	19.8	46
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	32.5	22.1	00
Davangere	33.5	20.8	00
Hassan	NA	NA	NA
Mysuru	33.8	19.2	25
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	33.6	21.2	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	36.8	24.6	00
Kolkata	35.9	22.2	20
Mumbai	35.2	29.9	00
Chennai	38.8	28.5	00
Pune	36.7	25.7	00
Hyderabad	39.7	28.7	00
Th'puram	31.6	24.6	02

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆಯುಕ್ತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ,
ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಗಡಿಗಿ ಚೆನ್ನಪ್ಪ ವೃತ್ತ (ರಾಯಲ್ ಸರ್ಕಲ್) ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ–583101.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 08392–273479/278168 ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ : www.ballaricity.mrc.gov.in ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: ka.ballari.cc@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮನಪಾಬ/ತಾಶಾ/ತಿ.ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ./2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.05.2026

ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮೂಲಕ)

ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆವತಿಯಿಂದ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.106.08 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.189.10 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **1) DMA/2026-27/SE7861, 2) DMA/2026-27/SE7862, 3) DMA/2026-27/SE7858, 4) DMA/2026-27/SE7859 & 5) DMA/2026-27/SE7860** ಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ:10.06.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.06.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹರಾದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.06.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ಕಂಡಿಷನಲ್ಲಿ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿದ್ದು ಈ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಅನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ.
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ/2026–27/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/ಆರ್.ಪಿ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/192

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
BRANCH OFFICE: No.271/1, 2nd Floor, Yashodha Complex, B.B. Road, Chickballapur-562101, Phone No: 08156 -270117.
E-mail: Cbpur.ksfc@karnataka.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. N. Narasimha Murthy, Prop: M/s JMPS Electronics has agreed to mortgage/pledge the scheduled property as security in connection with the loan application submitted to the Karnataka State Financial Corporation, Branch Office: B.B. Road, Chikkaballapur Branch. Mr. N. Narasimha Murthy became the owner of the said property through a Lease-cum-Sale Agreement dated **05-02-2024,** executed by Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB), vide document number AQO-1-15876-2023-24, Book No. 1, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Devanahalli, on 05-02-2024. However, it has been stated that the original allotment-cum-letter and confirmation letter issued by Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board have been lost. A certified copy of the said letter has been submitted. Therefore, if any person has any kind of right, claim, liability, mortgage, charge, dispute, or objection whatsoever over the schedule property described below, they are required to contact the undersigned either personally or in writing, along with supporting documents, within 7 days from the date of this publication. If no objections/disputes are received within the stipulated period, it will be presumed that there are no claims, disputes, rights, liabilities, or encumbrances of any nature over the said property, and the schedule property will be mortgaged/pledged in favor of the Karnataka State Financial Corporation as security. Schedule Property: KIADB Plot Nos. 1-D and 1-9 (E-Khata No. 150300201400420064), situated at the High-Tech Defence and Aerospace Park, Baladimmanahalli, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, measuring 3981 sq. meters, and the said site/property constitutes the schedule property

Date: 25.05.2026
Place : Chikkaballapur
Sd/-
Branch Manager.

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
COMMISSIONER OFFICE, BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru - 560092
No:BNCC/Comm/PSR(G)/122/2026-27 FORM-III (see sub-rule (3) of rule 3) Date: 30-05-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act,1961 the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Commissioner, Bengaluru North City Corporation for **Construction and formation of Connecting 18mtr wide road from Neha Prakash Hospital to Attur Ananthapura Main road in Ward No-3 Yalahanka Satellite Town Sub Division.**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Joint Commissioner, Zone-2, MEI Layout Hesarughatta Road, Bagalagunte, Bengaluru within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of Land / Building area surrendered and landowners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Yalahanka** Name of the Village: **Atturu**

Sy. No/ Khatha No.	Type of Land: Vacant	Type of Land: Built up	Nature of Land: Agriculture Converted undeveloped Approved Layout / developed Land Building Site	Dimension of the Land/ Plot & Extent in Sq.M: Dimension	Dimension of the Land/ Plot & Extent in Sq.M: Extent	Boundaries of the Land / Plot: East	Boundaries of the Land / Plot: West	Boundaries of the Land / Plot: North	Boundaries of the Land / Plot: South	Building Details: Extent in Sq.m	Building Details: Type of Construction & No.of Floors	Building Details: Floor Area Ratio	Present Activity on Land/Building (Specify Specific activity such as Shop, Office, Factory, Apartment, Individual house etc.,	Market (guide -lines) value of the land Per Sq.M	Name and address of the owner of the plot/Land for Which DRC is to be issued
65/6	Vacant Land		Developed	26.02		Sy No 65/7	Sy No 65/5	Remaining portion of Sy No. 65/6	Sy No.66	-	-	-	-	35,000.00	Rajanna and Chandrushekar

Note: Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No: ನಅಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No.ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಪಿ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್/ಜಿ/1802/2024–25, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.09.2024

Objections and suggestions may be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the divisional / Sub divisional / branch offices	Joint Commissioner , Zone-2, MEI Layout, Hesarughatta Road, Bagalagunte, Bengaluru-560073.

Sd/-Commissioner, Bangalore North City Corporation

KARNATAKA STATE HANDICRAFTS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.45, 3rd Floor, KSHDCL Complex, M.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 001.
Phone : 080–25582656 /71204445/71204446,
E-mail : gmmkshdcl@gmail.com Website : www.cauverycrafts.com
Tender Reference No. KSHDCL/2026-27/IND0017/Call-2
File No.KSHDCL/MKTG/E-T/216/2026-27/CALL-2 Date: 30.05.2026

SHORT-TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd., (KSHDCL) invites short-term e-tender under two cover tender procedures from eligible tenderers for manufacture and supply of 92.5 sterling Silver Medals with Gold Plated with gandaberunda along with necessary accessories on Sale on Approval (SOA) Basis as per the specification detailed in the notification. The tender notification details may be obtained through e-procurement mode by logging on to website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The date of commencement of access to tender documents **is 30.05.2026** and last date and time for submission of bids **is 09.06.2026.**

Sd/- General Manager(Marketing)

ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bagalkote
Town Development Authority,
Division No: 01, Bagalkote-587102
E-mail: btdadn1@gmail.com, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08354–295372
No:EE/BTDA/Dn.01/PB-01/Tender Notification No.01/2026-27/364
Date: 29/05/2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 01
(Through karnataka public Procurement Portal only)

As per the tender procedure of **KTPP** Act, tender invited from Bagalkote Town Development Authority Bagalkote for work from KPWD registered eligible contractors pertaining to Indent **No: 83/Call 4,** Costing **Rs. 3811.70 Lakhs** Tender Invited in two Cover System.

The intending bidders for work details may login to karnataka public Procurement Portal website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for detailed notification and submission of the tender. The tenders can be submitted till **15.06.2026** up to **5.00 PM.** technicial bids will be opened on.**17.06.2026** at **11.00 AM** (if possible). and financial bids will be opened on **19.06.2026** at **11.00 AM** (if possible). Any other details can be obtained from this office in person or over Telephone Number **08354-295372.**

Note: 1) Please note henceforth, the calendar of events published in Karnataka public Procurement Portal is final.
2) Please note henceforth, changes any in calendar of events Corrigendum/Addendum will be published in karnataka public Procurement Portal only and will not be published in Newspaper.

DIPR/Bagalkot/67/Deshpandepublicity/2026-27
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
BTDA, Division. No 01, Bagalkote

Delhi Police bust ISI-underworld network; 8 held

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Delhi Police said on Saturday that they busted a Pakistan-backed ISI-underworld terror module and arrested eight suspected operatives, including a Nepali national, allegedly planning attacks on vital installations, security establishments and police personnel in Delhi and other cities.

The arrests were made in a coordinated multi-state operation that exposed a conspiracy allegedly orchestrated by Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), underworld operatives and gangster-turned-handler Shahzad Bhatti, with plans to target locations in Delhi, Mumbai, Punjab and Chandigarh, they said.

In Mumbai, the targets were railway stations, parks and bridges, police said.

Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Anil Shukla said at a press conference that four Pakistan-made hand grenades, two Glock pistols, 24 live cartridges, a stolen motorcycle and a stolen scooter were recovered from the accused.

The accused are Vijay alias Shooter (23) from Uttar Pradesh, Nitish Paswan (23) from Jharkhand, Taoqeer Rizwan Ahmad Shaikh (27) and Sajid Mehboob Shaikh alias Arbaz Khan (27) from Maharashtra, Harvinder Singh (28), Gagandeep Singh (28) and Manjeet Singh (23) from Punjab, and Nepali national Anag Kami Lama (66). A case under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) has been registered at the Special Cell police station.

According to police, the operation was launched following inputs that operatives linked to Pakistan-based handlers and underworld networks were planning attacks on strategic targets and security personnel in several cities.

NIA conducts multi-state raids over Kerala explosives seizure

NEW DELHI, PTI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted searches across three southern states in connection with the seizure of a large quantity of explosives in Kerala's Malappuram district.

The searches were conducted at 19 premises of the accused, as well as at the houses of dealers and manufacturers of explosives, in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Several digital devices, documents and other materials, including gelatin sticks, were seized during the extensive searches, the NIA said in a statement.

Six people have been arrested so far in the case, which has revealed grave national security implications, given the huge quantity of illegally procured explosives that Kerala Police seized in February, it said.

The local police had registered a case after a lorry parked in the compound of Farha Hollow Bricks at Chemmad-Thalappara road in Malappuram district was found packed with a large quantity of explosives, the agency said.

According to the NIA, the explosives seized from the lorry included 89,600 gelatin sticks in 448 boxes and 10,500 non-electric detonators in 35 boxes.

A massive dust storm engulfs the skyline at Dungargarh in Rajasthan's Bikaner district on Saturday. PTI

Massive dust storm sweeps Rajasthan

Rain brings relief to most parts of North India

NEW DELHI, PTI

A massive dust storm barrelled through several parts of Rajasthan on Saturday, even as an active western disturbance triggered rain in most of the northern states, bringing much-needed relief from the sweltering heat that baked the region for the past few days.

In Rajasthan, the storm triggered by a western disturbance affected Churu, Bikaner, Hanumangarh, Sri Ganganagar, Nagaur, Didwana-Kuchaman, Alwar and Sikar districts, while Jaipur witnessed strong winds followed by rain.

Clouds of dust and sand engulfed many towns, reducing visibility to zero and forcing motorists to switch on headlights during the day.

Winds initially picked up in Hanumangarh and Sri Ganganagar regions, reaching speeds of around 56 kmph, officials said.

While the storm disrupted normal life, the accompanying rain brought relief from the intense heatwave conditions in several parts of the desert state.

"We never imagined such a massive dust storm could engulf the city. The sky turned dark around 2 pm, almost like nightfall. People were moving with their vehicle headlights on... Normal life has been disrupted as we are facing many difficulties," a Churu resident said.

A dust storm with lesser intensity also hit parts of Delhi on Saturday amid red and orange alerts, as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast thunderstorms, lightning, hail and rain.

According to the weather office, a dust storm followed by a severe thunderstorm accompanied by lightning, hail and light to moderate rain is very likely over parts of central, northeast, southwest, west, northwest and north Delhi.

The wind speeds are expected to range between 70 and 90 kmph, gusting up to 100 kmph, it said.

The weather change is being driven by an active western disturbance affecting north-west India, along with an associated cyclonic circulation, which has enhanced moisture and instability over the region, the IMD said.

Rain also lashed several parts of Punjab and Haryana, bringing respite from the scorching heat as the maximum temperatures dropped several notches below normal in both states.

Uttar Pradesh also experienced relief as rain brought temperatures down in parts of the state.

Parts of Himachal Pradesh also witnessed light to moderate rain and hailstorms, prompting the Met department to issue a yellow warning for adverse weather conditions in most parts of the state.

Kukis rally for release of hostages

IMPHAL/CHURACHANDPUR, PTI: Civil society organisations on Saturday organised protest rallies in Kuki-Zo inhabited areas of the state, demanding the release of 14 community members allegedly being held hostage and justice for the three church leaders killed in the recent ambush.

In Churachandpur, the rally was held under the aegis of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum, with participants raising slogans against violence and calling for immediate action against those responsible for the killings.

Protesters also demanded safe release of the 14 Kuki hostages.

They carried placards with messages like "How Long Will India Stay Silent?"

Jaishankar meets Myanmar President

NEW DELHI, PTI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday met Myanmar's President U Min Aung Hlaing to discuss key facets of the bilateral partnership, including connectivity and trade.

S Jaishankar with Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing

Aung Hlaing arrived in India earlier this morning on a five-day trip, starting with a visit to the Mahabodhi temple in Gaya before flying to the national capital. The high-level visit is aimed at ramping up cooperation in defence, trade and border security.

Myanmar is one of India's strategic neighbours and shares a 1,640-km border with a number of northeastern states, including militancy-hit Nagaland and Manipur.

The Myanmarese leader is accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising several cabinet ministers and business leaders. "Appreciate his positive sentiment towards deepening our longstanding bilateral cooperation," Jaishankar said after the meeting.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to hold talks with Aung Hlaing on Monday.

Jarange-Patil launches fresh hunger strike for Maratha quota

MUMBAI, DHNS: Under the scorching sun and sizzling temperatures, Manoj Jarange-Patil launched yet another agitation on Saturday, in an open field in Antarwali Sarati in Maharashtra's Jalna district, demanding Maratha reservation under the OBC category.

During the day, state minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, who heads the subcommittee on the Maratha issues, met him. However, the minister could not persuade him to withdraw the fast.

Jarange-Patil is demanding the implementation of the Hyderabad gazetteer — which lists Marathas as Kunbis in the Marathwada region — and the distribution of certificates to enable them to avail reservation benefits as members of Other Backward Classes (OBC).

He also demanded that the state government immediately implement the Satara, Aundh, and other gazettes, validate already-issued caste certificates, and drop police cases registered against Maratha-quota protesters during previous agitations. "I am not fond of fasting, but those in power are taking a cruel 'agniparikshа' (trial by fire) of the Maratha community," Jarange-Patil had said before launching the agitation.

CID probes Pune hooch case; 22 personnel suspended

MUMBAI, DHNS: The Crime Investigation Department (CID) has taken over the probe into the Pune hooch trade, even as Maharashtra's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) seized 5,929 kg of toxic methanol from a warehouse in Thane district's Bhiwandi.

On the other hand, 22 personnel from the Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad police commissionerates and the state excise department have been suspended.

At least 15 people died between Wednesday and Friday because of the illicit hooch; however, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi has claimed that 18 people had died, and the figures were suppressed.

During the probe, the police arrested Karnelsingh Takhtsingh Virka, Gurmangatsingh Karnelsingh Virka, Yogesh Ramchandra Wankhede, Radhesham Hariram Prajapati, Indarjit Kaur Karnal Singh Virka, and Kalpesh Agrawal.

The FDA on Saturday raided the Bhiwandi premises of Rex International and sealed it after it failed to produce ledger entries or mandatory verification details.

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No. KREIS/EDN/TRNG/1/2026-EDU-Part(2)-3264662 Date:30.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

The Tenders have been invited for Conducting of **Technology Assisted Spoken English Training Programme for 9th Standard Students** of Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society in Belagavi & Kalburgi Division from eligible agencies vide- **KREIS/2026-27/SE0047** through e-Portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on 30.05.2026. The last date for receipt of tenders is **12.06.2026** and the details may be viewed at the above website.

Sd/- Executive Director
KREIS, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/YC/901/2026-27

VACANCIES AT AIR FORCE SCHOOL JALAHALLI

CONDUCT OF WALK-IN INTERVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING POST OF TEACHING/ NON-TEACHING STAFF ON 08-06-2026
REPORTING TIME: 0830HRS
VENUE: AIR FORCE SCHOOL JALAHALLI EAST

Sl. No.	Post	Subject	Category	Vacancy
01	TGT	Hindi	Contractual	01
02	TGT	Science	Contractual	01
03	TGT	Sanskrit	Contractual	01
04	Volley Ball Coach (Part Time)		Contractual	01
05	STEM Lab Technician (Part Time)		Contractual	01
06	Office Clerk		Contractual	02
07	MTS		Contractual	05

For details of eligibility criteria, please visit our **website: www.afsjal.org**. Candidates are requested to carry their original / duplicate documents for the interview. For any queries contact **Tel.No. 080-23455069.**

The Executive Director,
AF School Jalahalli (East) Bangalore-560014

Government of Karnataka
Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Davanagere

No.EE/RDWS& SD/DVG/ AE-2/Tender -2026-27/284 Dated:-30.05.2026

Short Term E-Procurement Tender Notification (2nd Call)

Tender is invited through e-procurement for Work Operation and maintenance of Multi village water supply scheme to Santhebennuru and other 5 Villages in Channagiri Taluk, Davanagere District approved under 2215 –MVS O&M scheme(2025-26) for Rs67.50Lakhsin Two cover system by the Executive Engineer, RDWS& S Division, Davanagere on behalf the Governor of Karnataka, for registered PWD Contractors and also registered in e-Portal cell.Item rate tender as per standard bid documents only through e-Procurement in order to enhance the transparency in the tendering process and hence there will be no physical form of tender. Last date for submission of tenders on Dated:08.06.2026at5.00 PM. Further details can be obtained from this office Tel No:08192-262126 or through website http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/114/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

Sd/- Executive Engineer
RWS Division, Davanagere

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

No:EE/ KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra / Tender Notification No: 05/ 2026-27: Dated: 27.05.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal only)

Percentage Tenders by e-procurement portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account 4701 Bhadra. The No. of work is 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is varies from **Rs.2033.84 Lakhs**. The amount of EMD is varies from **Rs.20.33 Lakhs (Rs. 1.00 lakhs e-cash balance amt e-BG Rs.19.33 lakhs)** (by kpp portal) contactors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from **30.05.2026 to 18.06.2026 upto 17.30 hours** in the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Technical Bid will be opened on **20.06.2026 at 17.30 hours** and after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority Financial bid will be opened. Pre-Bid Meeting on Dtd: **15.06.2026 @ 11.00 Hrs** at O/o Executive Engineer, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi. Stipulated period for the completion of work is **12 Months (Including monsoon).**For more conditions and details visit website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer. KNNL,
No.4, BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/SMG/No-131-05/zenkar/2026-27

Govt of Karnataka
Executive Engineer, PRE Division, Vijayanagara,
Annex Building, 2nd Floor, Back side of SP Office, Hosapete

No:EE/P.R.E/D/PB/Tender/PB/Dif heads/2026-27/298 Dated:27.05.2026

Short term tender Notification.
(Through Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Executive Engineer P.R.E.Divn, Hosapete Vijayanagara district has invited the Works Min Rs.10.00Lakhs to Max Rs.300.00Lakhs works Invites Short -term tenders (TN:298 , Dt:27.05.2026) as per KTPP-2000 act through e-procurement for the works category tenders in Vijayanagara Division under Different heads from the eligible agencies. According to the Standard Bid Document KW 1,2,3 & 4/ Service rules and regulations (As per updating in the KPPP) based on turn-key.

For Annexure-I : Probable date of tenders publishing: 27.05.2026 & Last date of tenders submission : 06.06.2026 (5.00PM)

For Annexure-II : Probable date of tenders publishing: 29.05.2026 & Last date of tenders submission : 12.06.2026 (5.00PM)

(Auto Extension Specialty up to 4 Days after last date of tender)

Annexure I Indent Nos (Including Category works) H B Halli Taluk : 26544, 26543, 26542, 26541, 26540, 26258 & 25782 Hosapete Taluk : 26363, 22930/call-2, Hadagali taluk : 26283, Kudligi : 26872 & other indents

Annexure II Indent Nos : Hadagali taluk: 26565 & 26566

Corrigendum's / modifications / correction, if any, will be published in the website only & for more information contact to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website and this office (email ID: eepredvijayanagara@gmail.com)

Sd/- EE.PRE.Divn Vijayanagara, Hosapete.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/103

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION KOPPAL. Phone No:08539-222318.email:eepwdkpl2@gmail.com

IFT No. PWD:DK:TDR: KW-1,2&4:2026-27: 636 Date: 27.05.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers as per standard bid documents on http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal. Head of Account : 8443 Deposit Contribution, 2059-80-053-4-00-200 Departmental Buildings Mentaiance/ 2026-27 & KKRDB Macro Institutional-SCP / 2024-25. Two cover Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours on Phone No. 08539 – 222318 and all informations regarding tenders can be had from website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Total No of Works:03 (Work Indent No: 35829, 35936 & IND0237) invited. Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders : **03.-06-2026** Time 12.30, Date of Technical Bid opening **04-06-2026** Time 13.30, Date of Financial Bid opening **05-06-2026** Time 14:30. Minimum & Maximum Estimate Amount **Rs. 2.00 Lakhs** & **Rs. 200.00 Lakhs** respectively. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address, EMD, Time for Tender, Reservation Queries/ Clarification, Date of Financial Bid Opening, Date & Other information as mentioned in KPPP Portal. any changes either in tender date or any other condition tenderers can view in http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.

Sd/- EE, PWD Division, Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/121/KSMCA/2026-27

ಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಜಲ ಮತ್ತು ನೆಲ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ (ವಾಲ್ಮಿ)
ಬೇಲೂರ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಸಾಹತು, ಧಾರವಾಡ– 580011.ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 0836–2486889
ಮೊ: 9448386889 ಮಿಂಚಂಚೆ: walmiengtrg@gmail.com www.walmidharwad.karnataka.gov.in

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. ವಾಲ್ಮಿ/ತಾಂ.ಶಾ/ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2026–27/331
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30–05–2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಜಲ ಮತ್ತು ನೆಲ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ. ಬೇಲೂರು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಸಾಹತು, ಧಾರವಾಡ–580011 ಕಚೇರಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಶೇಕಡವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender excluding GST in Lakhs	EMD Rs.
1	Providing Manpower Services at WALMI, Campus, Dharwad for the period of one year during 2026-27	60.98	1,44,000/-
2	Providing Housekeeping and training support staff Services at WALMI, Campus, Dharwad for the period of one year during 2026-27	62.95	1,49,000/-
3	Providing Agriculture and Related Works Labor Services at WALMI, Campus, Dharwad for the period of one year during 2026-27	28.77	68,000/-
4	Providing Security Services at WALMI Campus, Dharwad for the period of one year during 2026-27	50.24	1,19,000/-

ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನಿಗದಿತ ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ ಶುಲ್ಕದೊಂದಿಗೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ, ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02–06–2026,** ರಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–06–2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ** ವರೆಗೆ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18–06–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ** ನಂತರ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂದಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ **ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0836–2486680** ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಅಥವಾ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಜಲ ಮತ್ತು ನೆಲ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ.
ವಾಲ್ಮಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ– 580011

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/246/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2026–27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ಸಂ: 11/2026–2027 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.05.2026

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ KW-2/3/4 ರ ರೀತಿ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.06.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 30.05.2026 ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ; 06.06.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.06.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 09.06.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.31 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.06.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 3/6/9 ತಿಂಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 9 (ಒಂಭತ್ತು), ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.485.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.50.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ, ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ., ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ:– (1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡುವಿಕೆ /ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. (2) ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾ.ಇಂ.,ಲೋ.ಇ.,ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/159/2026–27

A THIRST SOLUTION Expert says effort could be a template for restorations elsewhere

Community-led stepwell revival eases water scarcity in Raj

RAKHEE ROY TALUKDAR

In this sweltering heat, with temperatures frequently touching 45° C in Rajasthan, securing safe drinking water is a challenge. Earlier this week, despite the energy-sapping heat, hundreds of people from various parts of Jaipur took to the streets to protest against the supply of contaminated drinking water. They demanded immediate relief from the state government.

However, around 25 km from the city centre, residents of Prahladpura on Tonk Road have taken it upon themselves to ensure clean drinking water for the entire village, comprising around 700 people. The source is not water tankers or taps but a 400-year-old stepwell that they have revitalised.

Shravan Sharma, a Prahladpura resident who toiled to get the local stepwell working, told *DH*: "We have been cleaning the stepwell every year, but we couldn't make it fully functional for drinking purposes. The water was being used for the adjacent temples."

He added: "We always knew its importance. The whole village came together to restore it. We don't want it to fall into disuse again... It is a place where we relax. It is now the showpiece of our village."

About stepwells

Stepwells were born of need in places where a brief monsoon spell followed the summer. Water shortage was a perennial problem. So, stepwells — the architectural marvels they were — "stepped" in.

A stepwell is ideally a subterranean water structure built to preserve and harvest rainwater. They are built by digging deep down into the earth and making use of natural aquifers to trap rainwater and groundwater. Most of them go several levels deep into the soil, typically at least 25 metres, and can be reached through a series of stone steps.

Experts have documented thousands of stepwells across India, with different names like "baoli", "vav", "kund", "pushkarani", or "kalyani", depending on the local language. They are of varying sizes, architectural designs, and embellishments, depending on the landscape.

There is evidence of the existence of stepwells in the Indus Valley Civilisation between 2500 BC and 1700 BC. Initially built as crude trenches, they evolved into engineering marvels between the 11th and 15th centuries.

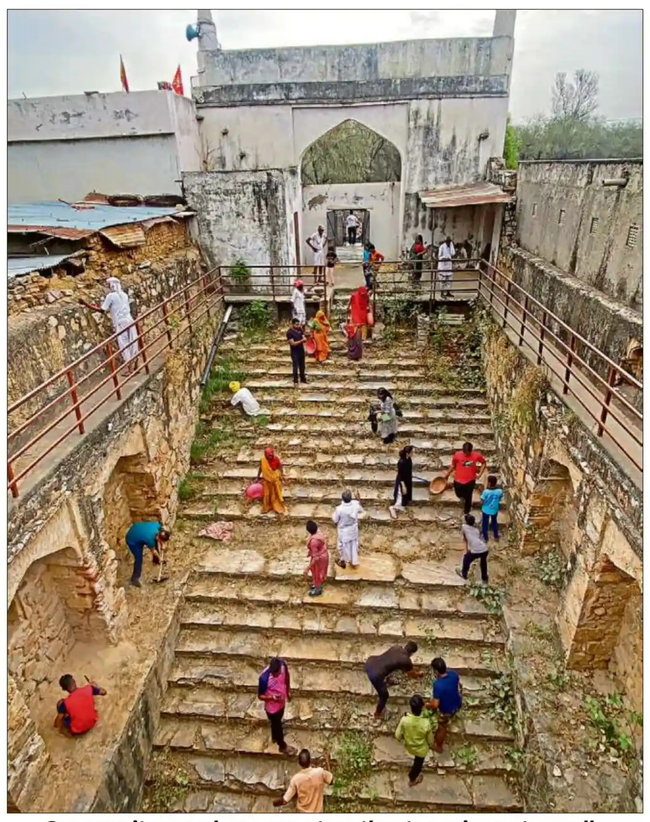
In 2016, Stepwell Atlas — a collaborative effort between researchers and organisations including the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (Intach) — mapped over 3,000 stepwells across India. Of them, only 400 to 500 were in usable condition.

Since the British considered them unhygienic and prohibited their use, and with the advent of modern water systems, these stepwells began to be used as garbage dumps.

The restoration

In Rajasthan, architect and urban planner Akanksha Modi — fondly called "Baori baisa" — has mapped around 467 stepwells and photo-documented around 223 of them over the last three years.

Modi said she found the aforementioned stepwell on a family outing to Prahladpura in 2022. She noticed its water — however little there was — being used in temples. She said, "People already had that connection with the stepwell, and wanted to strengthen it. They had abandoned the stepwell only because of wild plants and aquatic animals, including snakes."



Community members come together to revive a stepwell. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

She recalled: "By April 2024, I was keen to restore the stepwell, but only with community involvement. Otherwise, the whole process of conservation would mean nothing. There was a better chance of maintaining the place only if villagers were involved."

She continued: "One challenge was funds, because the NGO with which we collaborated was just starting. We began speaking with the locals and got a no-objection certificate from the Panchayat."

This, apparently, got the ball rolling. Modi elaborated: "One villager permitted the use of their place for lime-water mixing. Somebody promised water. Somebody else gave electricity. Village elders used to play cards at someone's house. We requested them to gather at the baori, so that they could keep a watch on the quality of work as well. The villagers practically rebuilt the place themselves."

What lies ahead

Modi is now working on revitalising the "Booj ki baori" near Jaipur. She said, "Initially, I was just interested in documenting and mapping stepwells. They had the same purpose. However, I realised that all of them had different designs, sizes, arches, and openings."

She elaborated: "In Jaipur, these structures are three to four storeys underground. How these peripheral walls are holding the weight of the earth, which has been constantly pushing for the last 300-400 years, is a wonder."

Modi continued: "These are structurally interesting as well! Besides the beautifully designed system, there was a distinct management method. Water filled the stepwells from August to April. From April, there were harsh summers, so people used the water, and evaporation was faster. So, stepwells were completely dry by June-end. That was when people cleaned them, provided them a breathing space."

She also mentioned "a special construction technique" that ensured that polluted water was not allowed to flow back into the stepwell. "It was like a self-cleaning system," she said.

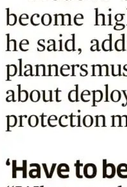
"Now, even if governments do the conservation part of it, the soul of revitalisation lies in people using them. This community-led revival of the Prahladpura stepwell can become a template for restorations elsewhere," said Modi.

(The author is a senior journalist based in Jaipur)

Theatre commands in the next 2-3 years: Army Chief

KALYAN RAY,
NEW DELHI, DHNS

GENERAL UPENDRA DWIVEDI
Chief of the Army Staff



"As far as Operation Sindoor is concerned, firstly, it is still continuing. There is a temporary cessation of hostilities. So the Indian Army and all the three services are preparing well for Operation Sindoor 2.0 if it takes place.

India's long awaited theatre commands may have to wait for "another two to three years" for implementation, Chief of the Army Staff Gen Upendra Dwivedi said on Saturday, dropping clear hints that the much-debated reform proposal may not be realised immediately.

"The theatrisation is on the right track... We are hopeful that the new Chief of Defence Staff should be able to take the journey forward, and in (the) next 2-3 years, we should be able to see it is happening on the ground," Gen Dwivedi said at a media interaction on the sidelines of the passing-out parade of the 150th course at the National Defence Academy, Pune.

The Army Chief said all discussions on theatrisation were over within the Chiefs of Staff Committee and the complete report was submitted to the defence mMinister. It is currently undergoing a review by various stakeholders.

The outgoing CDS Gen Anil Chauhan, who retired on Saturday has submitted his recommendations on the formation of theatre commands to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh after extensive consultations with the three services and other government stakeholders.

Lt Gen N S Raja Subramani, who is slated to take over as India's third Chief of Defence Staff on Sunday, will carry forward the reforms in higher defence including the creation of theatre commands.

"The CDS and the three present chiefs, including the outgoing Navy Chief have taken a conscious view that all the major interests of all three services are met with. Whenever there is a kind of synergy that needs to be brought in, there will be some kind of a giveaway by all three services," he said.

"The service chiefs will be responsible for the raise, train and sustain whereas theatre commanders will be tasked with operational orchestration of the forces," the Army Chief said.

India currently has 17 individual commands shared between the Army (7), Air Force (7) and Navy (3). The plan is to have three commands looking after the borders with China and Pakistan, and the oceans.

Asserting that the forces are ready for Operation Sindoor 2.0, Gen Dwivedi said future battles will be shaped by technologies ranging from artificial intelligence and cyber space to space, going beyond the traditional areas of the land, air and sea.

Modern battlefields have become highly transparent, he said, adding that military planners must remain cautious about deployments and force protection measures.

'Have to be cautious'

"What we have seen over a period of time is 24/7. The battlefield is so transparent that every movement is known to the other side. We have to be very cautious in terms of our deployment, employment and the protection required for troops as well as the civilians in the border areas," he said.

Oppn condemns attack on Abhishek

State BJP denies role of party members, claims restraint

ARKADEV GHOSHAL,
KOLKATA, DHNS

Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee meets the family of party worker Sanju Karmakar, in Sonarpur, South 24 Parganas district, on Saturday. PTI

Members of the Opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc on Saturday condemned the attack on Lok Sabha member and Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee.

Leaders of parties that form the I.N.D.I.A bloc — of which TMC is also a part — decried the apparent absence of police personnel in Sonarpur, where Abhishek was assaulted.

Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge condemned the "shocking" assault and said on X: "The deliberate lack of adequate police protection for a prominent Opposition leader speaks volumes about the BJP's politics of vendetta and persecution [sic]."

"The government of West Bengal and the Union Government must ensure security for all Opposition leaders and take immediate steps to prevent such attacks. Political differences can never justify any kind of violence," he added.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, said it was an attack not only on Abhishek but also on the people who had elected him. "This is the ugly face of the BJP's politics of revenge. Political differences can never justify violence."

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said the attack proved that BJP was capable of nothing but hate-filled, violent politics.

AAP Chief Arvind Kejriwal praised Abhishek for "standing strong and supporting the grieving family" of the deceased TMC worker.

Echoing the sentiments of other Opposition leaders, Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal posted on X, "... This condemnable violent attack on Abhishek shows that the BJP is full of lumpen elements who are far removed from Sanatan Dharma... Adharma is their way of life."

CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, too, rebuked BJP for its "politics of revenge", saying it was suppressing dissent through central agencies and political violence.

However, BJP's West Bengal unit said no party member was involved in the attack. Bengal BJP spokesperson Shamik Bhattacharya said, "The TMC (leaders) is safe today because we exercised restraint." He added that had TMC been in power in the state, 500 BJP workers would have been killed.

Questioning the security situation in West Bengal, TMC's Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien wrote on X, "What is happening now in Bengal?"

"Where are the police? Why was security withdrawn on the day of counting? Let the Home Minister answer," he added.

(With PTI inputs)

Teenager digs deep to find CBSE's 'rigged' tender process

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

TWEAKSTER

- In August 2025, CBSE released the third tender that Coempt won
- The 3rd tender did not have the clause of 'poor performance'
- It also did not mention the need for a vendor to own data centres and Disaster Recovery Centre

The CBSE's tendering process was "rigged" to grant the contract to tainted firm Coempt Edu Teck, alleged a 17-year-old student who wrote his Class 12 examination this year.

Sarthak Sidhant dug deep into the ongoing controversy over the CBSE evaluation website and the Hyderabad-based company and found documents on the CBSE site which showed that conditions for technical competencies were changed to accommodate Coempt.

Alleging that the CBSE "rigged" the process, Sarthak said the first tender was floated in February 2025, and while the request for proposal (RFP) exists, there is no archive of this tender in the Governance e-Marketplace site.

The same tender was once again floated in May 2025 with the same RFP, and four companies made the bid, including Coempt and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). As all the four failed technical checks, this tender, too, was cancelled.

In August 2025, CBSE released the third tender, where Coempt, TCS and another company, RankGuru, bid. Coempt was the winning bidder.

This time, the conditions were tweaked. In the first and second tenders, three preconditions were that if a company made misleading claims in the forms, or had a record of poor performance, or if any documented inquiry revealed facts contrary to the information provided, the company would be disqualified.

However, the RFP for the third bid did not mention the condition of "poor performance".

"CBSE mandated a Rs 50 Cr annual average turnover from exam services. Smaller debt-free firms asked to lower it to Rs 30 Cr to promote competition. CBSE refused. What was Coempt's 3-year average? Rs 50.86 Cr qualified by 1.7%," Sarthak posted.

The old RFP also required the company with past projects involving 5 lakh students, but the new one switched to cumulative volume of answer booklets. Similarly, while a vendor was required to have their own data centres and Disaster Recovery Centre in the old RFP, in the new one, none was needed.

Hailing Sarthak, Rahul Gandhi said that these findings reveal how CBSE changed the RFP to "unduly benefit" Coempt.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi wears the uniform of an autorickshaw driver during a meeting with a group of drivers at Todarmal park, Bengali Market area, in New Delhi, on Saturday. PTI

Jacqueline, Sukesh to face charges in money laundering case

NEW DELHI, PTI: A Delhi court on Saturday ordered the framing of charges against actor Jacqueline Fernandez, alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar and 15 others in a Rs 200-crore money laundering case.

Additional Sessions Judge Prashant Sharma said that "prima facie, there is sufficient material on record based upon which a strong suspicion is raised against all the accused".

Jacqueline Fernandez

The accused persons "have to be charged with the offence (of money laundering) under Section 3 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), punishable under Section 4 of the PMLA," the ASJ said.

All the accused have been summoned on June 3 for formal framing of charges, following which the trial in the case will commence.

Jacqueline was named as an accused for the first time in a supplementary chargesheet filed by the agency.

The ED alleged that she was in constant touch with Sukesh and had received valuable gifts from him through Pinky Irani.

3-storey building collapses in Delhi, dozens feared trapped

NEW DELHI, PTI: Several people, including medical students, are feared trapped after a three-storey commercial building collapsed near the Saket metro station in south Delhi on Saturday evening.

The entire structure was reduced to a massive mound of rubble, with twisted metal, broken pillars and concrete slabs scattered across the site.

Police said nine people have been rescued so far while a massive multi-agency operation is underway to search for those feared to be under the debris, officials said.

Witnesses said cries for help could be heard from beneath the debris.

"All we could hear were screams coming from under the rubble. There was a huge cloud of dust. When it settled, we realised that part of an adjoining structure had also been affected," a local resident said.

The building, with a coaching institute, cafes and offices operating in it and construction work underway on the third floor, collapsed around 7.45 pm on Western Marg in Saidulajab area near Saket metro station.

Fire officials said the ground-plus-three-floor building collapsed completely, toppling onto an adjoining temporary tin-shed canteen where students were having dinner.

Residents said the building was frequented by a large number of students and office-goers.

Although officials have not yet confirmed how many people are injured or feared trapped, locals claimed around 100 to 150 people could be trapped under the debris.

TRACING HISTORY

ASI to start epigraphical study in Nallamala forests

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is set to undertake an epigraphical survey of selected areas within the Nallamala forests to document and preserve the invaluable historical and cultural heritage embedded in one of South India's last great undisturbed wildernesses.

Inaugurating the survey initiative on Saturday, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Forests Minister Pawan Kalyan underscored that forests are repositories not only of rich biodiversity, but also of irreplaceable historical and archaeological assets.

ASI has not specified when it will start the survey work.

The survey will focus primarily on inscriptions in Telugu and Nagari scripts, with findings expected to deepen scholarly understanding of linguistic evolution, ancient kingdoms and the cultural heritage of South India.

Spanning five districts across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the Nallamala Hills — part of the Eastern Ghats and lying south of the Krishna River — constitute one of the largest stretches of continuous forest cover in peninsular India, outside of the Western Ghats.

The region is home to the Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve, the country's largest, and supports a remarkable diversity of wildlife, including tigers, leopards, blackbuck, pangolins, Indian pythons and king cobras, alongside over 700 animal species and several rare birds.

The state government has reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding both the natural wealth and cultural heritage within its forests, pledging that these assets will be conserved, studied and celebrated for generations to come.

The Nallamala survey builds on the success of a similar exercise in the Lankamala Reserve Forest of YSR Kadapa district.

Jolt to Sharad Pawar's NCP as Prajakt Tanpure joins BJP

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Senior politician Prajakt Tanpure, a prominent leader from the Ahilyanagar district, on Saturday joined BJP after quitting Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP).

Prajakt Tanpure

The Rahuri MLA was in touch with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Water Resources Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil for some time.

Tanpure may be asked to contest the upcoming Maharashtra Legislative Council elections from the Ahmednagar Local Authorities' constituency. "I did not have any pressure to join the BJP. I have joined the party to take Rahuri ahead," said the 49-year-old politician.

Tanpure is a two-time MLA from Rahuri from the undivided NCP and was a minister in the Uddhav-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government.

Before Tanpure left the party, Tanpure called on NCP (SP) working president Supriya Sule. "Yes, he met me... he explained his position and problems for which he took this step," she said.

When asked about BJP's 'Congress-mukt Bharat' campaign, Sule said, "I don't have any issue about Tanpure leaving us. However, I have one observation. If you look at Ahilyanagar district there is only one leader (Legislative Council Chairperson) Ram Shinde who is from the BJP. If you look at the rest, all others who are now with the BJP had earlier been with the Congress."

CALL FOR SCRUTINY Papal essay urges stronger oversight & protection of human dignity

Pope Leo's AI warning reflects growing public anxiety

BLOOMBERG

Pope Leo XIV signs his first Encyclical Letter "Magnifica Humanitas", focused on the rise of artificial intelligence at the Vatican City. AFP FILE

Many, even some Catholics, find the doctrine of papal infallibility hard to swallow. But papal encyclicals — the theological essays that pontiffs issue to guide bishops "in their relations with their flocks" — are almost infallible indicators of social and economic confidence. They must not be ignored. The mere fact that Pope Leo XIV chose to publish a 40,000-word essay this week arguing that artificial intelligence must "serve humanity, not concentrate power" shows how significant the issue has become and signals an approaching turning point.

The Roman Catholic Church is not known for adaptability, but when it attempts reform, its timing can be remarkable. The Vatican II council is a notable example. Called by Pope John XXIII in 1959, during a period of stable prosperity, it marked the beginning of a time of dramatic change. Its first session in October 1962 coincided with the Cuban Missile Crisis. The second, amid Beatlemania, was interrupted by the Kennedy assassination. By its close in 1965, under Paul VI, the revolutionary 1960s were well underway. Somehow, John had sensed the turning point. Papal encyclicals respond to society's greatest concerns. Everyone should heed Leo's Magnifica Humanitas (On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence).

AI and society

Leo raises two broad concerns about AI: the unaccountable way it is being developed and deployed, and its impact on individuals and their sense of identity. Both reflect widespread public anxieties. His arguments place the church in direct conflict with Silicon Valley libertarians. In The Tech-Optimist's Manifesto, venture capitalist Marc Andreessen attacked efforts to slow AI's development, arguing that AI is a universal problem solver capable of saving lives and that restricting it could cost lives.

Leo counters that uncontrolled technological development may result in "an increase in means without a growth in humanity: having more without being more". Rather than viewing AI as a cure-all, he argues that technology can become the standard by which everything is judged, reducing both creation and human beings to instruments of efficiency. He also warns about the concentration of power in a handful of dominant AI companies. Governments' laissez-faire approach to regulating the early internet and social media, combined with a relaxed attitude towards antitrust enforcement, has enabled a small number of firms to shape access, participation and public discourse. Such concentrated power, he argues, "tends to become opaque and evade public oversight, increasing the risk of distorted forms of development that give rise to new dependencies, exclusions, manipulations and inequalities".

His intervention comes as major AI firms, including OpenAI and Anthropic, gain increasing influence. Even shareholders may have limited ability to direct or restrain these companies.

Learning from the mistakes of social media, Leo argues that society must examine whether digital infrastructure and algorithms genuinely promote participation and responsibility, protect vulnerable people, ensure fair access to opportunities and remain directed towards the common good. Social media platforms often failed this test. Leo also shares growing concerns about the risks posed by AI chatbots.

AI and the individual

Leo's second major concern is AI's effect on what he calls the Magnificence of Humanity. People increasingly interact with AI systems as though they possess human qualities, despite the fact that AIs do not experience life, emotions, relationships or moral responsibility.

AI is not morally neutral, he argues, and its use can never be merely a technical matter. Yet it is often presented as objective while simulating human communication. It can weaken creativity and judgement, create the illusion of genuine relationships and reinforce the biases of its creators while appearing impartial.

In making these arguments, Leo is responding to disturbing cases in which AI chatbots have reinforced harmful beliefs or behaviours among vulnerable users. He is also engaging in a longstanding philosophical debate that pits the church and the followers of Immanuel Kant against utilitarianism.

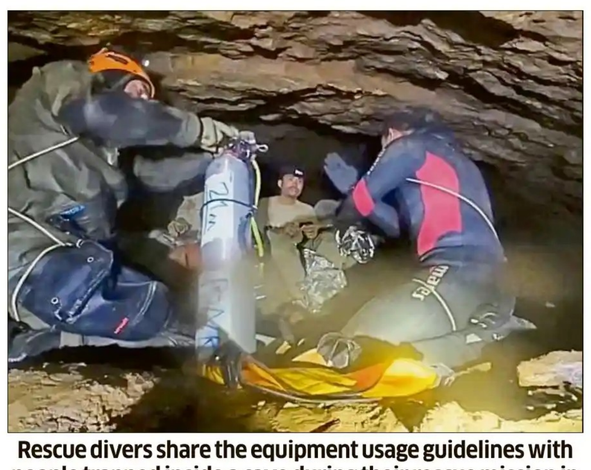
Kant argued that no person should ever be treated merely as a means to an end. Utilitarianism, by contrast, seeks the greatest good for the greatest number. Leo's concerns clearly align with Kant's emphasis on the inherent dignity of every individual. "If the human being is treated as something to be perfected or surpassed, it becomes easier to accept that some lives are less useful, less desirable or less worthy," he writes.

In the name of progress, he warns, "necessary sacrifices" may come to be justified, placing burdens on the most vulnerable in pursuit of an allegedly improved society.

One need not be Catholic, or even religious, to find that argument persuasive. Critics from libertarian and utilitarian perspectives dispute Leo's position, while some Catholics believe he has not gone far enough and should advocate stricter limits on AI.

By making this case now, however, the pontiff is giving voice to a concern that has become increasingly urgent. He has fulfilled a central role of religious leadership by forcing a moral debate about technology's future. That debate now needs to intensify.

WORLD AT A GLANCE



Rescue divers share the equipment usage guidelines with people trapped inside a cave during their rescue mission in Xaisomboun Province, Laos, on Saturday. REUTERS

Four trapped in flooded Laos cave rescued after 10 days

▸ Rescue workers in Laos said on Saturday they had safely evacuated four villagers trapped in a flooded cave for 10 days, a day after another man was successfully extracted, AP/PTI reports from Bangkok.

Two men remain missing. Lao and Thai rescue groups posted details of the successful operation on social media, along with photographs showing the rescued men on stretchers, wearing oxygen masks and wrapped in foil blankets. The villagers had reportedly entered the cave last week in search of valuable minerals before becoming trapped by flash flooding that blocked their exit. Another villager escaped in time and alerted authorities about the seven men left behind. The Lao organisation Rescue Volunteer for People said on its Facebook page that the water level inside the cave had receded enough for the trapped men to leave with divers who had entered to deliver food and water. The group said the search would continue for the two men who remain missing. The first survivor was evacuated on Friday. According to rescuers, that operation took about 30 minutes. Rescue teams from Laos and Thailand were joined by Japanese and Malaysian colleagues. Indonesian, French and Australian specialists also reportedly arrived at the site.

WHO chief visits Ebola epicentre

▸ The head of the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Saturday visited Bunia in eastern Congo, the city at the heart of an outbreak of a rare strain of Ebola, where the virus is spreading faster than response efforts despite better-organised health facilities and fresh aid arrivals, AP/PTI reports from Bunia.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is expected to visit a treatment centre and meet local authorities, health workers and affected families in Bunia. "The best way to address this is to provide all the necessary support to fight the disease at its epicentre and to continue offering every assistance needed," the WHO director-general said on Friday. The health agency said official figures showed 906 suspected cases and 223 suspected deaths.

French philosopher and sociologist Edgar Morin, a major figure in France's intellectual life, died on Friday at the age of 104. AFP FILE

Ukraine attacked N-plant: Russia

▸ Russia's state nuclear energy company Rosatom said on Saturday that a Ukrainian drone had struck the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, Europe's largest, causing no damage to key equipment, Reuters reports from Moscow.

Rosatom's head Alexei Likhachev called the incident "deliberate" and said it left a hole in the wall of a turbine hall. "This afternoon, a Ukrainian kamikaze combat drone struck the turbine hall building of Power Unit No 6, resulting in a subsequent detonation," Likhachev said in a press statement.

Ukraine's military denied the Russian claims as "yet another propaganda ploy." It said that the Ukrainian troops did not strike power unit No. 6 at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

Sri Lanka suspends Buddhist monk

▸ Sri Lanka's powerful Buddhist clergy on Saturday stripped a senior monk facing child abuse charges of his position after weeks of mounting public pressure, PTI reports from Colombo.

Pallegama Hemarathana, one of the country's most prominent Buddhist monks, was ordered to be remanded on May 14 after being arrested on May 9 following an investigation into a child sexual abuse case. The 71-year-old monk is accused of abusing a 15-year-old girl on temple premises.

BrahMos deal signed with Vietnam: India

SINGAPORE, PTI

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said on Saturday that a BrahMos missile deal with Vietnam had already been signed, while a similar pact involving Indonesia was in the final stages.

Singh is in Singapore to attend the Shangri-La Dialogue, and his comments were in response to a question on potential buyers of the missile system. "My understanding is that with both Indonesia and Vietnam, the deal is in the final stages; that, in fact, for Vietnam, I understand that it has already been signed, probably not publicly announced, but it's already been signed," Singh said.

The Philippines, which signed a contract worth nearly USD 375 million in 2022, was the first foreign buyer of the BrahMos missile system from India. Indonesia said in March that it had entered into an agreement with India to procure the BrahMos missile system.

And, earlier this month, there were news reports that suggested Vietnam was close to signing a BrahMos missile deal with India. But Singh's comments on Saturday came as the first official word on this in the public domain. However, the values of the Vietnam and Indonesia deals have not been officially disclosed yet.

Referring to the broader issue of sharing advanced defence technologies, Singh said countries generally sold sophisticated weapons systems and platforms to nations they regarded as friendly partners. "Obviously, you share technology with people you trust," he said. He further said that India has a strong commitment to the ASEAN nations, "and we treat all of you as 'friendly foreign countries' with whom we can share advanced defence technologies".

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprises 11 member states – Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

Several ASEAN member states, including the Philippines and Vietnam, have overlapping maritime claims with China in the South China Sea – one of the world's busiest trade routes.

US warns it is more than capable of resuming war with Iran

Trump insists Tehran must never acquire nuclear weapons

WASHINGTON, AFP

Women take part in anti-US and Israel protest in Tehran on Friday. AFP

The US warned on Saturday that it was "more than capable" of resuming war with Iran after President Donald Trump said any peace deal must adhere to his red lines, including Tehran never being allowed to develop nuclear weapons.

The White House had signalled that Trump was close to a decision on a potential deal, though Tehran denied there was a final agreement on ending the conflict. US sources had told AFP the deal was awaiting Trump's sign-off, but he made no decision following a White House Situation Room meeting on Friday.

Meanwhile, Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth, attending a defence summit in Singapore, said on Saturday that Washington was "more than capable" of restarting the war. US Central Command (CENTCOM) posted on X that American forces "remain present and vigilant across the region". Efforts to reach a deal were thrown into question this week by US strikes on the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, followed by retaliatory Iranian fire. Iran said its air defences shot down a drone "belonging to the US-Zionist aggressor enemy" on Saturday.

Trump said his priorities in any agreement include Iran pledging never to develop nuclear weapons and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

"President Trump will only make a deal that is good for America and satisfies his red lines," a White House official told AFP, adding: "Iran can never possess a nuclear weapon."

Not all immigrants will have to leave US to seek green cards

WASHINGTON, NYT NEWS SERVICE: The Department of Homeland Security sought on Friday to clarify its announcement last week that immigrants seeking permanent residency would have to return to their home countries to await their green cards, saying there had been no major policy change and that only some applicants would have to leave.

The clarification appeared to be a partial walk-back of an announcement in a US Citizenship and Immigration Services news release last week. Despite a long-standing policy allowing immigrants to remain in the country while waiting for their green cards, the release said individuals would now have to return to their home countries while they waited.

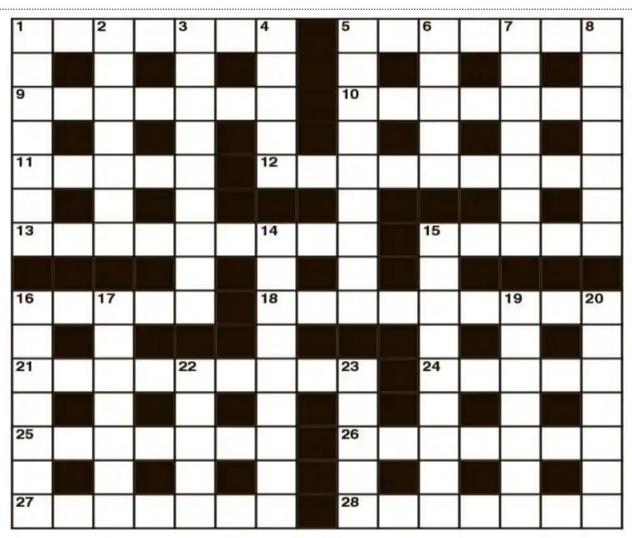
Powerful India modernising its military, says US

SINGAPORE, PTI: India is "powerful" and "modernising" its military, with industrial and logistics capacity to sustain "high-end military operations", US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Saturday.

Hegseth made the remarks while addressing delegates at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore. "India is powerful and modernising its military," he said, highlighting the country's role in maintaining a balance of power, particularly in the Indian Ocean region.

He said India was also "building a heavy industrial and logistics capacity to sustain high-end military operations". "We've also committed to pursuing co-production with India to advance capabilities". Hegseth also said Asia-Pacific's security rested "disproportionately" on US and called on nations to invest seriously in their own defence.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2682 ◆



ACROSS
1 A leaf vegetable (7)
5 Blackberry bush (7)
9 A wonder (7)
10 Continuous absence of rain (7)
11 Tolerate (5)
12 Closely united (5-4)
13 Set apart from the rest (9)
15 Passing popular fashion (5)
16 Emissary (5)
18 Press, TV and radio (4,5)
21 Grim novel by Dickens (4,5)
24 Malicious starting of fires (5)
25 Denigrate (7)
26 Well disciplined (7)
27 Disease causing lockjaw (7)
28 Continue after pause (7)

DOWN
1 A navigational aid (7)
2 Ardent (7)
3 Deadly foe (9)
4 Throw out (5)
5 Gradually (2,7)
6 Take up and practise (5)
7 Popular garden flower (7)
8 Give a right (7)
14 Weapons of war (9)
15 Fluctuate (4,3,2)
16 Item shown in evidence (7)
17 Green with vegetation (7)
19 Be worthy of (7)
20 Vexed (7)
22 Symbol (5)
23 Pry into others' affairs (5)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4042

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 9, F-eel s-ore 10, Rue 11, Hailed 12, Stamps 13, Lighter 14, Lays (laze) 15, Bear with me 17, Every bit 18, Fiddled 19, T-ax-i (rev) 21, Inches(t) 24, Delivered the goods 27, Chaser 29, Tier 30, Breezed 33, DI-small-Y 35, First watch 36, Shot 37, Towe-re-d 38, L-onely 40, Reve-a-L 41, (Ro)Use(d) 42, Con-dense.
DOWN: 1, Rest period 2, Plum 3, C-onspire 4, W-ealt-hy 5, See the light 6, Shortening 7, Mis-lay 8, Very fine 10, Rogue 16, Ri-d-d-les 20, Addle 22, Ch-ole-ra 23, Pretty awful 25, Very little 26, Speechless 28, H-eight-en 31, Rattling 32, Pro-duce 34, Matter 35, Force 39, Ne-E-d (rev).

EASY
ACROSS: 9, Anecdote 10, Sir 11, Ideals 12, Poseur 13, Rhubarb 14, Onyx 15, Scaredy-cat 17, Narrator 18, Carvers 19, Tofu 21, Orated 24, The Mill on the Floss 27, Arcane 29, Need 30, Admiral 33, Appetite 35, Leprechaun 36, Ergo 37, Imbibed 38, Liaise 40, Cereal 41, Sea 42, Rush hour.
DOWN: 1, Insouciant 2, Acre 3, Corridor 4, Derrick 5, Dreadnought 6, Timber wolf 7, Fedora 8, Claymore 10, Spurt 16, Riviera 20, Ounce 22, Abolish 23, Blunderbuss 25, Ineligible 26, Statuesque 28, Repartee 31, Duellist 32, Spiders 34, Eloped 35, Libra 39, Ache.

SU DO KU X - 3932

4		3		1				
			2		4	6		
			5		8			2
		4						
					5	4		
	1	7					6	
3			9	2				
8		6			7	2		9

SOLUTION TO 3931

8	3	6	4	5	1	9	7	2
9	7	1	6	2	8	5	3	4
2	5	4	9	3	7	6	8	1
1	4	2	3	8	5	7	6	9
7	6	5	1	9	4	3	2	8
3	8	9	7	6	2	4	1	5
5	9	8	2	7	6	1	4	3
6	1	3	8	4	9	2	5	7
4	2	7	5	1	3	8	9	6

To solve the puzzle:
The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

GAME FOR ALL Women's cricket has arrived in the country and summer camps tell the story

YEARS IN MARGINS to taking centre stage

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

A heartbreaking loss, oftentimes, does more wonders than a stirring victory. One such 'so close, yet so far' episode took place in 2017 when the Indian women's cricket team fell short by nine runs against hosts England at the Lord's in the 50-over World Cup final.

Captain Mithali Raj and her girls' march to the summit clash had created an unprecedented buzz across the country with more people than ever glued to their television screens praying for the Women in Blue to lift their first ICC trophy. The despair of the dramatic Indian loss was shared by many, tears flowed aplenty, but what it also did was ignite a flame and set the stage for bigger spectacles from female Indian cricketers - who until then had remained in the shadows of their male counterparts.

The hunger, drive and the need to prove a point was the kind of tectonic shift women's cricket, especially in India, was experiencing. What was once an invisible or mostly silenced movement, had now turned into a boisterous new wave.

The resurgence showed once again in 2020, when Harmanpreet Kaur-led India reached yet another final -- T20 World Cup -- but this time lost to hosts Australia by 85 runs at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The girls' knock on the doors of opportunity was getting louder. And the answer came in the form of the Women's Premier League -- a franchise-based tournament in line with the men's Indian Premier League -- in 2023 which is now being described as a landmark moment.

The journey from being in obscurity to making it the norm might have taken over 50 years (note: the first-ever senior women's nationals was held in 1973 in Pune with three teams), but the Indian women's cricket team, led by Harmanpreet, winning their maiden ICC ODI World Cup in Navi Mumbai in November last year was the long-awaited pinnacle finally scaled. Prior to the senior team's achievement, the junior girls clinching back-to-back ICC Under-19 T20 World Cups (inaugural event in 2023 and the second edition in 2025) was a much required flex.

Young girls aspiring to be cricketers during a training session at Karnataka State Cricket Association's summer camp in Tumakuru. In April, more than 200 girls participated in the trials conducted by KSCA in each of the six cities across the state. KSCA MEDIA

The real victory, however, of all these efforts and successes at the top of the pyramid is when it begins to reflect at the base of it - the grassroots. And what better way to qualitatively measure the growth of a sport than to take a look at where it all begins for most athletes – the summer camps.

In April, the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) organised open trials for girls in Raichur, Hubballi, Mysuru, Shivamogga, Mangaluru and Tumakuru with an intention to select 25 youngsters each for the senior and junior categories. The group of 50 would then attend a summer camp before inducting them into KSCA academies in each of these cities. The heads of the state's cricket body expected a good response. But the turnout amazed even those at the helm of the programme.

"Honestly, we thought 15 girls would turn up and we will have to somehow add 10 more to make it 25," Santosh Menon, KSCA secretary, told *DHoS*.

"We discussed that if we don't get the numbers, we could club two zones. But then, more than 200 girls participated in the trials in each zone! We picked 50 girls, that's a total of 300, who underwent a four-week summer camp in May and are now in the academies training regularly. And this is excluding Bengaluru," Menon said.

If the interest and attendance outside of Bengaluru were impressive, one can only imagine the hike in enrollments in the capital which has around 1,500 to 1,600 private cricket academies. And with 12,000-15,000 academies across the Karnataka, doing the math could take a while.

"I really don't have a count. In fact, it's becoming tough to accommodate every parent's request of wanting their daughter to get cricket coaching," offered Irfan Sait, veteran coach and director of Karnataka Institute of Cricket (KIOC).

"Even before I started my academy, Mamatha Maben (former India captain) walked to the club practice at KSCA B ground (in the late 1980s). She was my first girl student. There was instant friction with many asking why train girls? But for me, it was never a girl or a boy. Always a cricketer. Later Pramila Bhat (ex India player) walked in. A few years later, I had to convince a father as to why his daughter needs to play cricket. Luckily, he agreed and she went on to be known as Nooshin Al Khadeer (former India player, now national coach of U-19 women's team). And here we are today and the rise of women's cricket has been wonderful to witness."

Surprisingly, the case was much the same even as recently as five years ago, said Arjun Dev, founder and head coach of NICE academy in the city.

"When I was playing, there was one girl here and there practicing with the guys. When we (himself and Kiran Uppoor) opened our academy five years ago, Shreyanka (Patil) and Vrinda (Dinesh) were the only two girls. Today, there are about 40 girls - outnumbering the boys. Around 15-20 of them are playing some level of state cricket and last year we had seven or eight of our girls in the senior state team. Earlier, we would struggle to make those few girls play competitive games because a team requires 11 players. But now we field two teams or more at tournaments," shared Dev.

From the first Indian women's cricket team captain Shantha Rangaswamy to Mamatha, followed by Veda Krishnamurthy, Rajeshwari Gayakwad and the younger crop of Shreyanka, Vrinda, Niki Prasad, Kashvi Kandikuppa, among others, Karnataka has been the pioneer in women's cricket that has taken off across the country. According to a recent study commissioned by BBC and Collective Newsroom, women playing cricket has doubled from 5% to 10% in 14 states since 2020 with 26% among them aged between 15-24 saying they have considered a career in the sport.

Another catalyst, the insiders point out, was when the Women's Cricket Association of India (WCAI) was merged into BCCI in 2006. It opened doors for female players to access training facilities, national coaching academies and grounds meant only for men previously.

Additionally, factors such as BCCI implementing pay equity policy - that grants equal match fee to centrally contracted female cricketers in international formats as their male counterparts – in October 2022, improved tournament structure - both in respective states and the domestic national schedule - have contributed to the growth.

The improved accessibility, visibility, financial benefits and exposure has instilled a sense of trust among parents who believe cricket for their daughters could be a real career option or at least a sure shot personality development activity. In a society where the mother and father dictate the course of their children's lives, the shift in their mindset is refreshing.

"She enjoyed playing cricket with the boys near our house and I observed she was good at it. I want her to pursue her dreams," said a father of an eight-year-old daughter who stepped into a coaching centre a month ago. "I wanted to play cricket but my parents didn't allow me to pursue it. I want to give my girl that opportunity," said a mother of a teenage daughter. "When I see bruises on her body, it bothers me. But that is making her a strong person. People criticise us for putting our only child through all of this, but we know cricket will shape her life in a positive way," expressed another mother of a budding female cricketer.

All of it is proof enough that women's cricket in the country is accelerating at top speed. The women's T20 World Cup in England and Wales begins on June 12. Do not be surprised if more girls turn up at the maidans and gullys to play India's most loved sport to further announce: 'Ladies and gentlemen, a game of cricket is for everyone!'.

India go down 1-0 to Zimbabwe

BENGALURU, DHNS: India suffered a second consecutive defeat in their Unity Cup campaign, going down 0-1 against Zimbabwe in the third-place playoff at The Valley in London on Saturday.

A first-half penalty from Prince Dube (33') proved decisive as Zimbabwe secured third place, while India's campaign ended without a goal.

After falling 0-2 to Jamaica in the semifinal, India entered the contest hoping to finish the tournament on a positive note, and while the game remained evenly contested in the early stages, Zimbabwe enjoyed greater control and appeared more dangerous whenever they moved forward.

In the fourth minute, a dangerous cross was whipped into the Indian penalty area, but Sandesh Jhingan reacted brilliantly to stretch out a leg and clear the danger.

Zimbabwe continued to test the Indian defence. In the 15th minute, Shane Maroodza found space down the left and delivered another inviting cross into the box, only for Jhingan to rise highest and head the ball away.

The Blue Tigers' best opportunity of the opening half arrived in the 29th minute when Shabong produced a moment of quality, floating a perfectly weighted ball over the Zimbabwe defence for Vikram Partap Singh. The forward looked set to race through on goal, but Zimbabwe captain John Takwara produced an outstanding sliding challenge to deny him at the crucial moment.

TENNIS FRENCH OPEN

Champ Gauff dethroned

Sabalenka eases past Kasatkina 6-0, 7-5 to set up blockbuster Osaka clash

PARIS, AFP

Reigning champion Coco Gauff's French Open title defense ended on Saturday, losing in three sets to Austrian Anastasia Potapova on Court Phillippe-Chatrier. The fourth seed was defeated in the third round 4-6, 7-6 (7/1), 6-4 by the 28th seed.

Meanwhile, top seed Aryna Sabalenka and four-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka set up a blockbuster last-16 meeting at the French Open.

Sabalenka beat Australia's Daria Kasatkina 6-0, 7-5 in just 76 minutes to stamp her ticket to the fourth round.

After racing through the first set, Sabalenka went an early break down to her 53rd-ranked opponent before battling back.

"I was happy in the tough moments I never gave up," she said on court as Roland Garros goes through the last day of the heatwave that has sat over Paris since the beginning of the tournament.

With victory, the Belarusian world No. 1 has set up a meeting with her fellow quadruple major winner, Osaka.

Sabalenka and Osaka, both 28, have won two Australian Opens and two US Opens apiece.

Sabalenka has beaten Osaka twice this season, but Osaka won their only meeting at a major -- at the same stage in the 2018 US Open, the first of her major titles.

Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka returns during her 6-0, 7-5 win over Australia's Daria Kasatkina in the third round of the French Open in Paris on Saturday. REUTERS

The Japanese 16th seed battled past American starlet Iva Jovic 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (3/7), 6-4 to progress.

In a match dominated by serve with the first two sets decided by tie-breaks, Osaka gained the decisive break against the 18-year-old 17th seed in the 10th game of the third set.

"I was a lot calmer than in my first matches... In a Slam the further I get the calmer I am. It such an honour to be here. It's the furthest I have ever been here," Osaka, who had never before gone past the last 32 at Roland Garros, said.

Osaka said she did not care whether she played in what she called the "popcorn matches" but hinted that she might have to change her look for an evening game.

Ukrainian Oleksandra Oliynykova, who in the build-up to her third-round match accused her Russian opponent Diana Shnaider of "taking money" from a "company financing war crimes" and of liking social media posts by "propagandists", lost 7-5, 6-1.

With the men's side of the draw wide open following the shock early exits of top seed Jannik Sinner and 24-time major winner Novak Djokovic, Flavio Cobolli laid down a marker with an emphatic victory over Learner Tien.

The Italian beat the American 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 in one hour and 45 minutes on centre court.

"I want to think match by match. That's the way that I want to think this week," Cobolli said.

"I know that... for sure we (will) have a new Grand Slam champion, but I don't want to think about this. For sure I have now another tough match."

Cobolli will next meet Zachary Svajda with a spot in the quarter-finals on the line.

American world No. 85 Svajda upset 25th seed Francisco Cerundolo to continue his best ever run at a Grand Slam.

The 23-year-old had never got beyond the second round of a major but ensured his debut French Open would extend into the second week with a win over Argentina's Cerundolo.

Results: III round (prefix denotes seeding):
Men: 10-Flavio Cobolli (Ita) bt 18-Learner Tien (USA) 6-2, 6-2, 6-3; Zachary Svajda (USA) bt 25-Francisco Cerundolo (Arg) 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3
Women: 1-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt Daria Kasatkina (Aus) 6-0, 7-5; 16-Naomi Osaka (Jpn) bt 17-Iva Jovic (USA) 7-6, 6-7, 6-4. 28-Anastasia Potapova (Aut) bt 4-Coco Gauff (USA) 4-6, 7-6 (7/1), 6-4.

HONOURING THE CHAMPS

The Karnataka men's team - who won the Junior National Basketball Championship after 46 years in Puducherry - were felicitated at the Karnataka Olympic Association in Bengaluru on Saturday. STANDING (from left): Aditya Shenoi, Mohammed Arshad, Anish Ayyappan, Gunashekhar (KSBBA vice-president), Rajive MV(manager), Vardharaju (selection committe member), K Govindaraj (president FIBA Asia & KOA), Guruprakash (Ex-India player), Sachin Belvadi (coach), Umashankar B (head coach), Prakash R (KSBBA joint secretary, Divith Shenava, Sanket, Siddarth. KNEELING: Samarth, Anshul, Harshan Yatish (captain), Vijayendra, Vaibhav Gowda, Dev Charan, Dr Bhavana (physiotherapist).
DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

Satwik-Chirag roar into final

SINGAPORE, PTI

FINAL 11:30 AM LIVE STAR SPORTS

Star Indian duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stunned top seeds and world No. 1 Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae of Korea in straight games to storm into the final of the Singapore Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Saturday.

The fourth seeded Indian pair prevailed over the reigning world champion duo of Ho and Jae 21-19, 21-18 in a semifinal contest that lasted 52 minutes.

The Indians will play against the winner of the other semifinal, between the third seeded Indonesian pair of Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and fifth seeds Liang Wei Kang and Chang Wang from China in Sunday's summit clash.

It was the maiden win of the star Indian pair over the world. No.1 Korean duo.

But it was curtains for Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto as they lost 16-21, 21-17, 13-21 against the Japanese pair of Yuichi Shimogami and Sayaka Hobara in the mixed doubles semifinals.

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (left) and Chirag Shetty beat world No. 1 pair Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae of Korea in straight games to storm into the final of the Singapore Open on Saturday. AFP

Birthday boy Gukesh seeks turnaround

OSLO, PTI: Bruised and battered after a rough start, D Gukesh returns from the rest day, searching for a spark when Norway Chess resumes on Saturday, with the newly-turned 20-year-old world champion hoping his birthday marks the turning point in a faltering campaign here.

While fellow Indian R Praggnanandhaa has enjoyed a far better run and sits second in the six-player Open standings, it is Gukesh who continues to attract greater attention despite being last in the field, thanks not only to the aura of the world title but also the intrigue around his quiet, enigmatic personality.

It will be fascinating to see how Gukesh fares against Praggnanandhaa in round five, with the all-Indian clash likely to determine whether the world champion can still emerge as a genuine title contender or if his campaign continues to wobble in the elite field of Norway Chess.

Pairings (Round 5): Open: R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 6 points) vs D Gukesh (Ind, 3.5); Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 4.5) vs Wesley So (USA, 5.5); Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 8.5) vs Vincent Keymer (Ger, 4). **Women:** Zhu Jiner (Chn, 5.5) vs Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 5); Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 7) vs Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 5.5); Ju Wenjun (Chn, 4) vs Koneru Humpy (Ind, 3).

Avani Prashanth. DH FILE PHOTO

Avani surges to join Diksha in top 10

EVIAN-LES-BAINS (FRANCE), PTI

India's Avani Prashanth jumped into the top-10 with a second-round card of three-under 68 after a slow start to the week at the Jabra Ladies Open de France here.

She is now tied ninth at two-under par.

Diksha Dagar remained the best-placed Indian despite carding a one-over 72. Diksha is tied sixth with a three-under overall, one shot ahead of Avani.

The two other Indians in the field, Pranavi Urs (75-73) and Hitaashee Bakshi (79-78), missed the cut. Helen Briem of Germany became the new leader after carding a round of six-under 65 to progress her total score to 8-under par.

Saptak misses cut

Saptak Talwar had a strong start to the week at the Challenge De Espana after a difficult second round card of 4-over 75 saw him slip down to T-94 on the leaderboard in Andalucia, Spain.

With the cut set at 1-under par Talwar (69-75) was hit by a disappointing second round. His total after 36 holes was 2-over par. Talwar made three birdies, three bogeys and two double bogeys on day two.

Tough day for Yuvraj

Meanwhile, Indian golfer Yuvraj Sandhu carded a round of 5-over 75 on the second day of the Austrian Alpine Open to miss the cut by a long margin in Kitzbuhel.

With rounds of 75-75, his total score was 6-over par while the cut was set at 3-under par.

Andrew Johnston will enter the weekend as sole leader with a total score of 11-under par.

Sandhu made three and two bogeys in the second round with the only highlight of the day being the eagle on the ninth hole.

IPL 2026

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

> "I can only imagine all of the work that Shubman has put in throughout his career to get to where he is as far as batting is concerned. He's an exceptional young man, and sometimes you have to realise he is still a young man
>
> **Vikram Solanki, GT DoC**

OLD-SCHOOL FINESSE, MODERN-DAY DRIVE

KEY PLAYERS ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU

RECENT FORM (latest result first): W, L, W, W, W

VENKATESH IYER

While there are gun players like Kohli and Patidar in RCB rank, Venkatesh has shown he is in a league of his own, making big impact in limited opportunities. If the left-handed opener gives the kind of start he has been providing, GT will be in big trouble.

BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR

Given the fact that GT's batting is heavily dependent on their top three, Bhuvneshwar will be crucial for RCB's title chances. In Powerplay alone this season, Bhuvneshwar has taken 15 wickets, outfoxing batters with his old-school street-smart bowling.

KEY PLAYERS GUJARAT TITANS

Recent form (latest result first): W, L, W, L, W

SHUBMAN GILL

India's Test and ODI skipper showed why he was considered Virat Kohli's heir apparent from his teenage years with a high-quality century in the Qualifier 2. Unlike most batters who rely on brute power, Gill has stuck to his traditional roots but is still very effective.

KAGISO RABADA

Rabada in full cry is one of the sights to behold in world cricket. The pacer can crank up the speed when needed and his short stuff can be nasty. What makes it tough to take him on is his ability to read pitches and hit this hard-lengths area consistently.

STRENGTHS

The defending champions enjoy a little edge with experience in their ranks. In batting, Virat Kohli (600), Rajat Patidar (486), Devdutt Padikkal (463), Tim David (281) and Krunal Pandya (225) have done the job remarkably, while Bhuvneshwar Kumar (26), Rasikh Dar (16), Krunal (13) and Josh Hazlewood (13) have been on the mark with the ball.

WEAKNESS

RCB have barely looked fallible this season; when they've lost, it has either been a collective bad day in the office or the opponents have played exceptional cricket. The table-toppers will be hoping Sunday isn't the day when neither of that occurs, considering Gujarat will be fired up following the Qualifier 1 decimation.

COMPILED BY SIDNEY KIRAN

RCB, GT look to build a legacy of their own as they clash in finale

SIDNEY KIRAN
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

It's only befitting that two teams that have played consistently good cricket over the last couple of months in near-identical styles — somewhat old-school but in an efficient way — will cross swords in what promises to be a tactical final here on Sunday.

Hardly anything separated defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Gujarat Titans right throughout this season where the overall rate of scoring went up a few notches, and the two well-rounded sides will be quietly confident of adding a second star to their respective jerseys at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

The Royal Challengers, who ended 17 years of heartbreak with an emotional triumph at the very same venue last June, have walked in with a swagger and a renewed purpose since the beginning of this edition.

Even before a ball could be bowled, the management stressed that the 2025 triumph was history and they are focussed on creating a legacy like heavyweights Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians by becoming just the third team to retain the crown. And the players have shown the hunger to not let go of their possession of the golden chalice.

Veteran Kohli has upped his game to the demands of modern T20, top-scoring for the franchise with 600 runs at a career-high strike rate of 164.38. Opening the batting, he has consistently laid the foundation with the same traditional approach but with a bit more aggression.

Not just the emperor but his batting comrades have been in good touch with everyone putting their hands up at various stages to show RCB is no more a team that is reliant on two or three superstars but a potent collective unit.

LIVE 7:30 PM, STAR SPORTS

Skipper Rajat Patidar (486) has added more ammunition to his batting, young Devdutt Padikkal (463) has extended his impressive domestic form, finisher Tim David (281) has delivered those catapult blows — living up to his surname! — while Krunal Pandya (225) has played hero whenever the chips have been down. This collective might has been witnessed in bowling too. Veteran Bhuvneshwar Kumar has been the star performer with 26 scalps, but his pace colleagues Josh Hazlewood (13), Jacob Duffy (9) and Rasikh Dar (16) have played support cast nicely, the latter emerging as the surprise pick with his ability to break partnerships. On the spin front, Krunal (13) and Suyash Sharma (9) have done what has been asked of them.

Champions in 2022, Gujarat, despite being weary from having played the Qualifier 2 on Friday night in Mullanpur, will be striving for that final push and banish the disappointment of 2023 when they lost a pulsating final to CSK.

Not the most flamboyant side and dubbed too predictable by some pundits, Gujarat have focused on doing the basics right, and that has held them in good stead.

Skipper Shubman Gill (722) and his opening partner Sai Sudharsan (710) have yet again forged a reliable alliance at the top, a fusion that's a large part classical with a bit of modern-day hustle.

One-drop Jos Buttler (507) has built a strong base along with Washington Sundar (327), while finisher Rahul Tewatia (183) has found his mojo in the nick of time following a below-par season.

Pitch

Barring an odd game, the pitch at the Narendra Modi Stadium has generally been friendly for batters and considering the game is a final, it should be a flat deck.

Weather

The summer sun is shining in full glory and Sunday is expected to be no different with temperatures set to peak at 41 degrees Celsius and dropping down to 30. No rain is forecast.

STRENGTHS

Openers Shubman Gill (722) and Sai Sudharsan (710) have composed another riveting duet, while one-drop Jos Buttler (507) has provided middle-overs fireworks. Bowling-wise, Kagiso Rabada (28) and Mohammed Siraj (18) have been incisive, Prasidh Krishna (16) has been decent, spinner Rashid Khan (19) has regained his mojo while Jason Holder (17) has emerged as the X-factor.

WEAKNESS

It's the over-reliance on their star performers. Although most of them have been consistent, if two or three flop, GT have been found wanting. Plus their fielding has been sub-standard, dropping regulation catches. Another aspect that could weigh them down is fatigue, considering they played Qualifier 2 in Mullanpur on Friday.

FEARLESS AT 15: Sooryavanshi leaves cricket's biggest names in awe

SIDNEY KIRAN
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

The Indian Premier League has always provided a platform for uncut gems to shine through, but seldom has it witnessed a raw diamond like Vaibhav Sooryavanshi sparkle so brightly that the cricketing world has been left gobsmacked by his natural lustre and the potential to become a massive attraction in the future.

Rajasthan Royals' Sooryavanshi had already attracted major spotlight last season when, as a 14-year-old from the cricketing outpost of Samastipur, Bihar, he smashed a scintillating 101 off 38 balls (his century coming off just 35 deliveries) against Gujarat Titans. The youngest to earn an IPL deal (Rs 1.1 crore) at just 13 years, Sooryavanshi went on to score 252 runs in seven games at a strike rate of 206.55 in his maiden IPL stint.

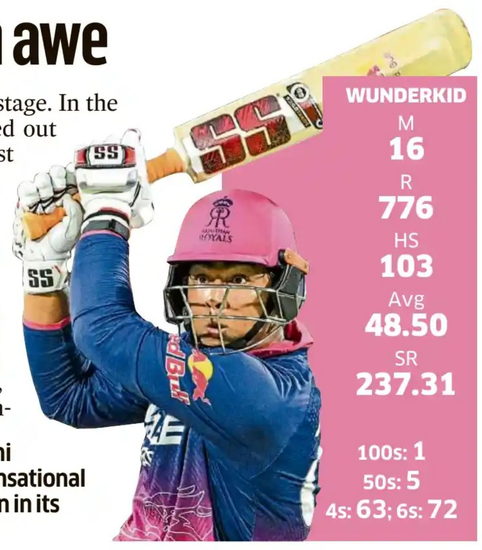
So, when this season kicked off, the limelight was firmly thrust on the southpaw. A year older and having already won the U-19 World Cup this February for India, where he smashed an 80-ball 175 in the final against England in Harare, Sooryavanshi had a point to prove at the senior level. A once-in-a-generation talent that has blossomed unbelievably fast, Sooryavanshi wanted to show that 2025 was not a flash in the pan but a teaser of what he's capable of. And he did it this season in ways never imagined to become the toast of cricketing world.

In just his second match of the season, Sooryavanshi smashed a stunning 37-ball 103, a knock studded with 12 sixes and five boundaries. From there on, the school kid went about destroying expert fast bowlers so ruthlessly that pundits and opponents were left flabbergasted. Mitchell Starc, Jasprit Bumrah, Kagiso Rabada, Pat Cummins, etc., Sooryavanshi spared no one. Where even seasoned batters would take a little time to get their eye in, Sooryavanshi would go berserk right out of the gates, lofting or hooking speedsters into the stands nonchalantly.

A handful of players to be born after the IPL was conceived in 2008, Sooryavanshi is the perfect byproduct of the T20s mode of batting. Unlike batters who focus on boundaries, Sooryavanshi's first instinct is to send the ball soaring into the stands. Only when it's not an option does he look for boundaries. His single-season record of 72 sixes is a testament to his fearlessness.

In the two playoff games, Sooryavanshi also showed he's not unnerved by the big stage. In the Eliminator, he missed out on breaking the fastest century record, getting out for 97 off 29 balls, before playing a mature but still a rasping 47-ball 96 in Qualifier 2. Those two knocks, against high-quality attacks in differing situations, had everyone speechless. His 776 runs at a strike rate of 237.30 this season now has everyone wondering what's next for the prodigy.

"I'll just say what an exceptional innings he played," GT skipper Shubman Gill said of Sooryavanshi. "It's defying any sort of logic on how he's taken on such experienced international bowlers and playing as well as he did today. He's obviously another exceptional talent. He plays differently to others. He certainly is an exciting prospect. I, along with all of you, look forward to watching him back in the future. Imagine where he'll get to if he's achieving the feats that he is now."



WUNDERKID

M	16
R	776
HS	103
Avg	48.50
SR	237.31
100s:	1
50s:	5
4s: 63; 6s:	72

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has been the most sensational batter the IPL has seen in its history. AFP

No Surya, Gill; Vaibhav among 30 probables

NEW DELHI, PTI: India's current T20 skipper Suryakumar Yadav, along with Test and ODI captain Shubman Gill, are the two prominent names missing, while teen sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has been inducted into the 30-strong longlist of men's probables that the BCCI has submitted to the IOA for the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya from September 19 to October 4.

Suryakumar Yadav

It has been pre-decided that the BCCI will need to select two separate T20 teams as India's home white-ball series against the West Indies overlaps partly with the quadrennial extravaganza.

The West Indies series comprises eight white-ball games -- three ODIs and five T20Is -- between September 27 to October 17. Since Gill is expected to lead the team in ODIs, he hasn't been picked for the Asian Games.

While some players are common in both ODIs and T20Is, men's cricket event at the Asian Games will take place between September 24 to October 3, forcing the selectors to create a bigger pool to pick two teams.

It is understood that Suryakumar is no longer in the larger scheme of things as far as 2028 Olympic Games and the next T20 World Cup is concerned, and his name not featuring in the Asian Games longlist is a no-brainer.

The captaincy candidates in that Asian Games list would be Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson and Tilak Varma.

The list of bowlers has Jasprit Bumrah's name in it although ODIs could be his priority at that point in time taking the 2027 World Cup into account.

Harshit Rana is expected to be fit by then and has been kept in the long-list along with Prasidh Krishna and Arshdeep Singh.

Among spinners, the frontline slow bowlers Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar and Harsh Dubey have made it to the list, but only two of the four are expected to be picked. The other two will play the Windies series.

Probables list to IOA: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Ishan Kishan (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma, Jasprit Bumrah, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Prasidh Krishna, Varun Chakravarthy, Anukul Roy, Ayush Badoni, , Harsh Dubey, Dhruv Jurel, Khaleel Ahmed, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ravi Bishnoi, Shahbaz Ahmed, Shivam Dube, Vipraj Nigam Nigam, Harshit Rana, Yash Thakur, Washington Sundar.

Bhaker, Rana win silver in 10m air pistol mixed team event

MUNICH, PTI: Indian shooters Manu Bhaker and Samrat Rana won silver medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup here on Saturday.

The duo scored 483.6 in the final to secure the podium finish for India.

China's Qianxun Yao and Kai Hu claimed the gold medal with a total score of 483.9, while Shen Yiyao and Bu Shuaihang, also from China, settled for the bronze medal with 418.0.

The Indian pair qualified for the medal round in second place with a cumulative score of 582.

Two-time Olympic medallist Bhaker shot a 292-12x, while reigning world champion Rana shot a 290-9x.

They finished just behind the leading Chinese pair of Yiyao and Shuaihang, who topped the qualifiers with a score of 584.

The other Indian participants in the same event, Suruchi Inder Singh and Shravan Kumar finished in 10th place with a total score of 575.

In the 10m air rifle mixed team event, Elavenil Valrivan and Arjun Babuta finished 14th while Arya Bose and Tushar Sahu Mane ended 16th.

Earlier, the second Indian pair of Suruchi Singh and Shravan Kumar finished in tenth place with a combined score of 575-20x.

England level series 1-1

BRISTOL, PTI

All-rounder Freya Kemp produced a decisive performance with both bat and ball as England bounced back to beat India by 26 runs in the second Women's T20 International and level the three-match series 1-1 here on Saturday.

After rescuing England with a blistering unbeaten 39 off 13 balls at the death, Kemp returned figures of 2/15 with wickets of Smriti Mandhana and last T20I's star Jemimah Rodrigues in two overs as India lost their way to finish at 142/9 in pursuit of 169.

The series-deciding third T20I will be played in Taunton on Tuesday.

India had done well to restrict England to 168/5 for most of the innings, with young left-arm spinner Shree Charani once again impressing with figures of 3/25.

But Kemp's late assault, including two sixes and two fours in a 24-run final over off Arundhati Reddy, helped England plunder 39 runs from the last two overs and swing the momentum in their favour.

Chasing 169, India began brightly as openers Shafali Verma (22; 14 balls) and Mandhana (32; 25 balls) attacked from the outset.

Even after the loss of the openers, the visitors were well placed at 78/2 at the halfway mark.

However, England's spin duo of Charlie Dean and Sophie Ecclestone tightened the screws in the middle overs, drying up boundaries and steadily increasing the asking rate.

Charlie Dean picked up 2/20 in four overs to help England beat India by 26 runs at the County Ground in Bristol on Saturday. FILE PHOTO

Yastika Bhatia, who got a reprieve on 29 when Dean dropped a return catch, struggled to accelerate and was eventually retired out for 33 off 36 balls with the asking rate climbing beyond 12 an over.

Dean was exceptional through the middle phase, conceding little and building pressure with a series of tight overs, while Ecclestone also kept the batters in check from the other end.

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur briefly threatened a fightback, pulling Lauren Bell for a six over deep backward square leg during her 28 off 22 balls.

In the process, she became only the third batter in Women's T20Is to complete 4,000 runs after Suzie Bates and Smriti Mandhana.

But England struck at the right moments.

Kemp removed Jemimah Rodrigues soon after her arrival following the retired-out of Yastika, while Dean dealt India a double blow by dismissing Richa Ghosh (8) and Harmanpreet within four deliveries.

Harmanpreet's wicket effectively ended India's hopes as she edged Dean behind while attempting an expansive shot outside off.

Brief scores: England: 168/5 in 20 overs (Danni Wyatt-Hodge 29, Amy Jones 28, Alice Capsey 28, Freya Kemp 39 n.o.; Shree Charani 3-25) bt India: 142/9 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 32, Yastika Bhatia 33, Harmanpreet Kaur 28; Lauren Bell 2-33, Charlie Dean 2-20, Freya Kemp 2-15. **Result:** England won by 26 runs. **Series:** England level 3-match series 1-1. **PoM:** Freya Kemp. **Next match:** Taunton (June 2).

Rathod six-for hands Engrades win over Lions

BENGALURU, DHNS: S K Rathod's bowled 6/33 to break the backbone of Lions Cricket Club's batting in his side's comfortable six-wicket win in the KSCA Y S Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy for Group I- I, II, III division and qualifiers from IV & V division clubs.

Lions could only manage 94 all out on the day while Engrades chased down the target in 14 overs with Hemanth Patil contributing 35.

Brief scores: Lions CC: 94 all out in 25 overs (Yogesh BS 2-22, SK Rathod 6-33) lt to Engrades CC: 95/4 in 14 overs (Hemanth Patil 35, R Chandrasekaran 2-45).

Friends CT: 128 all out in 50 overs (Vaishnav D Sanghamiitra 55; Tejas KA 2-31, Pranav Bhatia 3-18, Rushi B Shetty 2-17) lt to Rajajinagar Cricketers: 132/2 in 16.3 overs (Sireesh Balgaar 72, Rushi B Shetty 31; Raghavendra Eswar Rao 2-41).

Minerva CC: 319/8 in 50 overs [Arnav Bharadwaj 35, Darshan R 77, Smaran Ramesh 90, Naveen Bala B 51, Shaurya NS 26; P Iyush Praful S 2-69, Aditya V 2-38, Abhishek R 2-60) bt Wilson Garden CC: 144 all out in 30.5 overs (Amogh R 2-32, Kushal Gouda 2-18, Karthik J 2-0).

Herons CC: 308 all out in 48.4 overs [Prajwal Pavan 93, Sanjay Ashwin C 26, Mohammed Waseef M 26, Aditya Mani 33, Jayanth MR 60, Pravesh KM 27; Pradeeep G 4-52, Kishore Manjunatha 2-26) bt South End SC: 160 all out in 43.3 overs (Nagarjun TM 58, Hemanth Kumar L 54; Bhargav S 4-22, Kushal Pramesh 3-13, Jullian Jacob Edward 2-27).

Palar SC, (Kolar): 332/4 in 50 overs (Chiranth D 61, Preetesh 76, Ritesh Bhatkal 113, Abhijit S 36, Ishaan S 2-53) bt Jawans CC: 242 all out in 41.1 overs (Karthik SU 65, Likith S Gowda 59, Prathеek 38; Ambresh K 2-41, Preetesh 2-34, Ritesh Batkal 3-44). Bangalore Star: 135 all out in 25.2 overs (Anurag Bajpai 25, Tanmay Gowda V 42; Asif Ali 3-28, Iiyas Motiya 2-28, Yaseer Ahmed N 3-36) bt Jolly Cricketers: 129 all out in 28.4 overs (Chirag Harsha 31; Inayath Pasha 2-33, Kishore S 3-34, Raga S Shankar 2-24, Chethan KL 2-13).

Young Lions Club: 276/8 in 50 overs (Dheeraj Yadav 46, Nikhil 97, Swaroop 34; Arvind 2-71, Kedarnath B Todakar 3-58) bt Hammonds CC: 274 all out in 50 overs (Vishruth U Krishna 36, M Kishore 37, Satyam Goudar 80, Sanjay Raja 35; Swaroop 3-49).

Swastic Union (2): 294/6 in 50 overs (Vijaya Raj B 52, Ravi Kairav Reddy 46, Vishal Onat 36, Aneeshwar Gautam 75, Sujay S 25, Srthan V 38; Neel M Jain 2-32, Anirudh Deepak 2-45) bt Yankees CC: 209/7 in 50 overs (K Akhil 41, Shiv R 29, Dhruv S Rao 63, Nitin Reddy N 35; Pranav NV 2-37, Vinayak Holla 3-17).

Modern CC: 280/7 in 50 overs (Vishnu Priyan 46, Prithvi Sadanand 102, Ansh Aima 36; Vivaan Singh 2-45, Shivohum Gupta 2-59, Vastvik Sharma 2-55) bt Spartons SC: 170 all out in 40.2 overs (Tandon 35, Harshith Raj 32; Rajashekar Swamy 2-42, Shreyas BM 2-27, Rohiet SSG 3-40). Star SC, Nelamangala: 210 all out in 49.3 overs (Hanumantharaju 57, Aaryan Nagesh 68, Nikhil Gowda 25; Aditya Navalgund 2-17, Ajith R 4-42) lt to Jawahar SC (2) : 212/5 in 35.1 overs (Pruthviraj KB 28, Shatak Gunjal 36, Ajith R 110).

Sapphire CC: 281 all out in 47.3 overs (Ravikumar M 49, Jeevan JV 62, Krishang S Rao 38, Arsh Arora 52; Gaurav MV 4-32, Rizwan Pasha 3-44) lt to Malleswaram United: 282/5 in 41.5 overs (Dheemanth KM 53, Yashwanth Patel 81, Punith HA 62).

Neptune CC: 81 all out in 18.5 overs (Athreya M 30; Virender 5-25, Agastya S 3-32) lt to Vijaya CC: 84/1 in 9.3 overs (Tushar Singh 59).

Chamarajpet CC: 99 all out in 28.4 overs (Nakul Swamy 46; Dushyanth Venkat 3-17, Naman GD 4-6) lt to Bangalore Occasionals: 105/1 in 8.3 overs (Bhuvan M Raju 45, Niranjan 56).

Arne Slot

Liverpool sack manager Slot

LONDON, AFP: Liverpool sacked head coach Arne Slot on Saturday after a disastrous defence of their Premier League title.

The club, who finished fifth in the table, said the Dutchman, who has been at Anfield for two seasons, would "depart his role as head coach with immediate effect".

Liverpool fans turned on Slot after a number of poor performances and there was some disharmony in the dressing room, with Mohamed Salah the most outspoken.

"Liverpool FC can confirm Arne Slot is to depart his role as head coach with immediate effect and that the process to appoint a successor is under way," the club said in a statement.

It added that club bosses had decided that Liverpool needed a change of direction.

"That does not diminish the work Arne has done here, or the respect we have for him," the statement added.

"Nor is it a reflection of his talents. Rather, it is indicative of the need for a different approach."

Aus edge India to level series

PERTH, PTI: The Indian women's hockey team lost 2-3 against hosts Australia to share the four-match friendly series 2-2 here on Saturday.

India took a 2-0 lead through Navneet Kaur (2nd minute) and Deepika Soreng (23rd).

Australia fought back in the third quarter, levelling through strikes from Abby Wilson (42nd) and Olivia Downes (44th) in quick succession.

Result: India: 2 (Navneet 2nd, Deepika Soreng 23rd) lt to Australia: 3 (Abby Wilson 42nd, Olivia Downes 44th, Courtney Schonell 58th.

IN BRIEF

India U-18 beat Malaysia 2-1

▸ India made a winning start to their U-18 Women's Asia Cup hockey campaign, defeating Malaysia 2-1 in a Pool A match on Saturday, reports PTI from Kakamigahara, Japan.

Fifteen-year-old Nousheen Naz starred with a brace as India took control after a goalless opening quarter. Malaysia reduced the margin through Nur Azli in the second half, but India held on for victory.

Billie Jean's ex-husband dies

▸ Larry W King, the former husband of Billie Jean King who partnered with her on the creation of the WTA Tour and the "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match, died at the age of 81 on Friday, reports AP from California.

King died at his home of prostate cancer, said his wife, Nancy Bolger King.

Larry King and Billie Jean King met at Cal State-Los Angeles and married in 1965. Billie Jean King credited him as "one of the unsung heroes in the establishment of women's professional tennis in the early 1970s."

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL Final: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Gujarat Titans **(7:30 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar**.

BADMINTON

Singapore Open: Final **(11:30 am). LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 1, JioHotstar.**

TENNIS

French Open: Fourth Round **(2:30 pm). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode**.

Vinesh's Asiad dreams end, but vows to keep fighting

Meenakshi defeats feisty wrestler 4-6 in 53 kg semifinal

NEW DELHI, PTI

The cheers were loud, the emotions raw and the expectations of a fairy-tale comeback unmistakable but Vinesh Phogat's return to competitive wrestling ended in heartbreak on Saturday following a 4-6 loss against Meenakshi Goyat in the 53kg semifinals of the Asian Games selection trials.

Vinesh thus fell short in her bid to re-enter the national team after the trauma of the 2024 Paris Olympics.

"I do not feel I have failed. I was fighting a whole system. We had to fight for every point. I was not given a fair deal. I do not grudge the athletes who fought with me. They also had dreamt of fighting against me. I will come back," Vinesh said before leaving the venue.

Top grapplers including Antim, Nisha Dahiya, Manisha, Mansi Ahlawat, Dipanshi, and Priya delivered commanding performances to book their spots for Asian Games.

Back on the mat for the first time since her devastating disqualification from the Olympic final in 2024, Vinesh battled through controversy, crowd-fuelled drama and a gruelling quarterfinal against Nishu Kumari before her comeback charge finally ran out of steam against Asian Championship silver medallist Meenakshi Goyat, bringing an emotional day to an abrupt end.

The day had begun dramatically even before she stepped on the mat. Vinesh was initially informed during the official weigh-in that she would only be allowed to compete in the 50kg category, the division in which she had contested her last four international events, including the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Vinesh Phogat returned to wrestling at the Asian Games trials after weeks of controversy. PTI

VINESH PHOGAT
Wrestler

"I have not failed at all. I am fighting the whole system and I am still standing with pride on the mat again. They wanted to stop me from returning but I am standing here again. When I should have been focusing on my recovery and preparation, I was arguing with officials. But I accept my defeat. I will work harder and return stronger.

The wrestler objected strongly and accused the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) of discrimination, prompting federation president Sanjay Singh to intervene and permit her entry into the 53kg trials.

After weighing 53.9kg, Vinesh entered the draw and opened her campaign with a comfortable 7-1 victory over Jyoti.

She then found herself staring at an early exit against the aggressive and technically proficient Nishu in a highly charged quarterfinal that swung between controversy and drama.

Nishu stunned Vinesh with a spectacular four-point throw and almost secured a pin to surge to a 5-0 lead. The bout was interrupted several times by challenges and technical glitches with the scoring.

Showing glimpses of the skill that made her one of India's most successful wrestlers, Vinesh fought back in the second period with a four-point throw that changed the complexion of the contest.

At one stage, Vinesh appeared to have pinned Nishu, prompting her husband Sombir Rathi and supporters to celebrate wildly and demand the fall. Following a challenge, officials ruled that the referee had blown the whistle incorrectly and wrestling resumed, denying Vinesh the pin.

She eventually edged the bout 7-6 after being ahead 6-6 on criteria after Nishu's final desperate attack failed and an unsuccessful challenge from her corner handed Vinesh the decisive point.

The emotionally draining contest, however, appeared to take a toll on Vinesh, whose lack of competitive wrestling in recent months was evident.

Against Meenakshi in the semifinals, she struggled to find the same intensity and eventually lost 4-6, bringing an end to her campaign.

Earlier in the day, Vinesh had made her intention clear: "I am here for at least two years."

Asian Games squad: 50kg: Dipanshi, **53kg:** Antim Panghal, **57kg:** Manisha Bhanwala, **62kg:** Mansi Ahlawat, **68kg:** Nisha Dahiya, **76kg:** Priya Malik.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

Parisians crowned European kings again

PSG hold nerve to edge Arsenal 4-3 in penalties

BUDAPEST, AFP

Paris Saint Germain players celebrate with the Champions League trophy after beating Arsenal 4-3 on penalties in Budapest on Saturday. REUTERS

Paris Saint-Germain claimed back-to-back Champions League triumphs with a 4-3 shoot-out win over Arsenal following a 1-1 draw after extra time on Saturday in Budapest, with Eberechi Eze and Gabriel missing from the spot.

Mikel Arteta's Premier League champions showed great resilience to take the game beyond 120 minutes, but fell to a second final defeat, 20 years after their first in Paris against Barcelona.

Luis Enrique's side became only the second besides Real Madrid to win the competition in consecutive years in the Champions League era.

PSG's first triumph was 55 years in the making, 14 of those under Qatari ownership, the second could start what they hope is an era of dominance and dynasty-building.

Luis Enrique rebuilt the team swiftly and efficiently, removing the club's superstars and building a cohesive and committed attacking side, capable of shredding opposition with terrifying pace.

It was the Spaniard's third Champions League triumph, making him one of only five coaches to complete a hat-trick -- the first coming with Barcelona in 2015.

For a while it looked unlikely as Kai Havertz powered Arsenal ahead after six minutes but Ousmane Dembele's penalty midway through the second half took a tight game to extra time and ultimately penalties.

Arsenal's Jurrien Timber was fit after a groin injury but his rust from over two months out led Arteta to deploy Cristhian Mosquera out of position at right-back.

The coach also opted for Havertz in attack over Viktor Gyokeres, and for an hour it seemed like his calls would pay off.

Luis Enrique selected 10 of the side which demolished Inter Milan 5-0 in last year's final as PSG finally lifted the trophy they so badly craved.

In Arsenal's only prior final German goalkeeper Jens Lehmann was sent off in the opening stages as they were defeated by Barcelona in Paris in 2006.

They got off to a far better start at the Puskas Arena, with Lehmann's compatriot Havertz firing the Gunners ahead after just six minutes.

Havertz, who scored the winning goal in Chelsea's 2021 Champions League final victory, could not believe his luck after Marquinhos's attempted clearance hit Leandro Trossard and bounced into his path.

The forward galloped into open space behind PSG's defence and towards Matvey Safonov's goal. Havertz had a tight angle to overcome but rifled a strike into the roof of the net.

It was the worst possible start for PSG against a miserly Arsenal side who had conceded just six goals on the run to the final.

Their disciplined defending kept the Parisians at bay with consummate ease, as Luis Enrique's side controlled the ball but could not break through Arsenal's defensive bastion.

Gabriel Magalhaes made an excellent last-ditch challenge to pick Khvicha Kvaratskhelia's pocket. The dynamic Georgian has been the tournament's best player but in the first half was not allowed room to breathe.

The French champions appealed for a penalty when Bukayo Saka bungled an attempted clearance and the ball hit both his arms, but referee Daniel Siebert was unmoved.

PSG were reduced to frustrated pot-shots from distance and after the break moved the ball quicker to try and destabilise Arsenal's rearguard.

Result: Arsenal 1 (Havertz 6th) lt to Paris Saint-Germain: 1 (Dembele 65th pen) 4-3 via penalties.

Karnataka's Nikhil wins steeplechase gold

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka's Nikhil Chandrashekar ran to a stunning gold medal, defeating the race favourite Yuu Kato in the men's 3000m steeplechase final of the Asian U-20 Athletics Championships in Hong Kong on Saturday.

18-year-old Nikhil clocked his personal best at 9:25.44 to in an enthralling race, where he overtook and pulled away from the Japanese rival (9:27.30) at the final stretch.

India bagged further medals on the day as Shahnavaz Khan and Jithin A R Chandrasekharan locked the top two spots with efforts of 7.84 metre and 7.66 respectively.

Basant won the men's high jump final by clearing the 2.20m for a sizeable lead from the rest of the pack. Sri Lanka's Tharusha Mendis was a distant second at 2.14.

Nikhil Chandrasekhar poses with the tri-colour after winning the men's 3000m steeplechase event at the Asian U-20 Athletics Championships in Hong Kong on Saturday.

Aarti bagged India's fifth medal with a third-place finish in the women's 200m final.

Results: (Only events with Indian medals): 3000m steeplechase: Nikhil Chandrashekar (Ind) 9:25.44, 1; Yuu Kato (Jpn) 9:27.30, 2 Jerico Cadag (Phi) 9:35.10, 3.

Long jump: Shahnavaz Khan (Ind) 7.84, 1; Jithin AR Chandrasekaran (Ind) 7.66, 2; Sarvar Meyliyev (Uzb) 7.60, 3.

High jump: Basant (Ind) 2.20, 1; Tharusha Mendis (SL) 2.14. 2; Kim Junki (Kor) 2.13, 3.

Women: 200m: Dilanma Ransini Perera (SL) 24.062, 1; Zhenglin Zhou (Chn) 24.068, 2; Aarti (Ind) 24.12, 3.

Gulveer first Indian to run one mile in sub-4 mins

BENGALURU, DHNS: Asian Games bronze medallist Gulveer Singh became the first Indian runner to clock a sub-four-minute mile at the 24th Annual Music City Track Carnival on Saturday.

Gulveer Singh posted a creditable time of 3:55.63 seconds to finish first in the Men's 1 Mile Pro event of the World Continental Tour meet.

CWG qualification

Meanwhile, Athletics Federation of India (AFI) extended an opportunity to qualify for the Commonwealth Games as the Indian Athletics Series 9 in Ludhiana on June 13 will serve as a qualification platform for those who could not make the cut in the Federation Cup due to "unfavourable local weather conditions".

It comes after all the javelin throwers who competed in the recent Federation Cup failed to breach the 82.61m qualification mark. Performances in Ludhiana will be considered only if they competed in Federation Cup.

Shubha, bowlers headline FUCC (1) victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Shubha S notched up a breezy fifty while team-mate Ananya Hegde picked up an economical three-for as Friends Union Cricket Club (1) beat Rajajinagar Cricketers by 84 runs in the KSCA Senior Women's T20 tournament at Alur 4 here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Riding Shubha's 39-ball 64 (8x4, 3x6), FUCC (1) posted 176 for eight in their 20 overs.

Chasing a competitive total for victory, Rajajinagar Cricketers found the going tough and were restricted to 92/9 in 20 overs. While Ananya (3/7) bagged three, Namita Dsouza (2/20) and Reethu (2/14) ably supported her with two wickets each.

Brief scores: Friends Union Cricket Club (1): 176/8 in 20 overs (Shubha S 64, Shishira 30; Niki Prasad 2-38, Bhakti Shetty 2-32, Anusha MN 2-19) bt Rajajinagar Cricketers: 92/9 in 20 overs (Namita Dsouza 2-20, Reethu 2-14, Ananya Hegde 3-7).
Mount Joy Cricket Club: 115/4 in 17 overs (Harshika A 52) bt Modern Cricket Club: 89/5 in 17 overs (Tanvii Upadhyay 28, Dyuthi Randhish 27). Start of the match was delayed due to wet outfield, later was revised to 17 overs per side).
Cavaliers Cricket Club: 44/4 in 11 overs (Simrah Londewale 2/12) lt to Visweswarampuram Cricket Club (2): 45/1 in 7.2 overs. Start of the match was delayed due to wet outfield, later was revised to 11 overs per side.
Bangalore Sports Club: 116/5 in 20 overs (Kushi Suryakanth 61) lt to Swastic Union Cricket Club (1): 117/1 in 14.2 overs (T Nireeksha 55, Andrea Michelle Lobo 41).

DYES Hassan edge DYES Kudige to lift U-16 title

LOCAL HOCKEY

BENGALRU, DHNS: DYES Hassan defeated DYES Kudige 3-2 in a closely-fought final to lift the title at the Hockey Karnataka U-16 women's tournament on Saturday.

G H Anushya struck the winning goal in the 42nd minute after the scores were levelled by BS Deechamma, who netted a brace for Kudige by the 30th minute.

Deechamma (10th and 30th minutes) levelled the score twice after Saraswathi M (4th) and Aradhya M D (21st) put Hassan ahead twice.

In the third-place match, SAI, STC Madikere defeated Hockey Belgaum 3-0 via goals from Neelamma NR (2nd), Matti Mythili (30th), G Sai Bhavya (40th).

Yashika KK off Kudige was awarded Player of the Tournament while S Sumiya of SAI was named the Best Forward. Binushree of Hassan was awarded the Best Goalkeeper while Belgaum's Anushri was awarded the Best Midfielder of the tournament.

Results: Final: DYES Hassan: 3 (Saraswathi SM 4th, Aradhya MD 21st, GH Anushya 42nd) bt DYES Kudige: 2 (BS Deechamma 10th, 30th min).

Third-place match: SAI, STC Madikere: 3 (Neelamma NR (2nd), Matti Y Mythili (30th), G Sai Bhavya (40th).

Best Goalkeeper: Bindushree (DYES Hassan). **Best Defender:** Sinchana KP (DYES Kudige). **Best Midfielder:** Anushri J (Hockey Belgaum), **Best Forward:** Shaik Sumiya (SAI, STC Madikeri). **Player of the tournament:** Yashika KK (DYES Kudige). **Fair play award:** Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Bengaluru.

DYES Hassan players and coaching staff celebrate with their spoils after winning the Hockey Karnataka U-16 women's tournament on Saturday.

Miracle Star wins main race

BENGALURU RESULTS

James McKeown-trained Miracle Star, ridden by Suraj Narredu, won the Chettinad Stud Plate, the feature event of the races on Saturday.

1. The Udhagamandalam Plate -1200M: A Great Buzz (Saleem A Jasdanwalla, Deepak Suryavanshi, J Ramesh) Pavan 1, Perfect Dream (A Sandesh), Evolvita Darshan) 3, Haniel (Atul) 4. WB: 1 3/4, 3 1/2, 1 3/4. T:1:15.47. Tote: Rs 58 (w) 20, 12 p; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 49; Fc: Rs 171; Q: Rs 65; Tri: Rs 1740 & 799; Exp: Rs 3624 & 477. TB I Ghatala; Fav: Perfect Dream.

2. The Chettinad Stud Plate - 1600M: Miracle Star (Radiant Blood Stock Pvt Ltd and Sharmila Padmanabhan) Suraj Narredu 1, Promiseofthefuture (Neeraj Rawal) 2, Star Glory (Saurav Rawat) 3, Golden Thunder (S Antony Raj) 4. WB: 4, 2, 3/4. T: 1:40.47. Tote: Rs 11 (w) 10, 13 p; Shp: Rs 14; Thp: Rs 26; Fc: Rs 15; Q: Rs 16; Tri: Rs 43 & 41; Exp: Rs 39 & 11. TB: James Mckeown. Fav: Miracle Star.

3. The Elite Force Plate - 1400M: Knotty Emperor (K Kamesh, Ashok Ranpise, Nambiar, Sanjeev Basappa, Gautam Basappa, Srikanth B, Dharmesh M, Raj Kumar, Swaroop K, Balamukunda Das) Vivek G 1, Friedrich Akshay Kumar), Rampage (A Sandesh) 3, The Archer (Neeraj Rawal) 4. WB: 7 1/2, 2 1/2, 1 3/4. T: 2-15.47. Tote: Rs 21 (w) 13, 19, 18 p; Shp: Rs 73; Thp: Rs 49; Fc: Rs 153; Q: Rs 147; Tri: Rs 674 & 190; Exp: Rs 1036 & 406. TB: P Prasanna Kumar. Fav: Knotty Emperor.

4. The Marilingaiah Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Splendid Dream (DT Racing and Breeding) Akshay Kumar 1, See The Light (A Sandesh) 2, Ziva (Asirvatham) 3, Refined Aggression (Yash Narredu) 4. WB: 1/2, 3 3/4, Lnk. T: 1:14.5. Tote: Rs 71 (w) 18, 13, 31 p; Shp: Rs 53; Thp: Rs 44; Fc: Rs 777; Q: Rs 184; Tri: Rs 5058 & 2787; Exp: Rs 12,467 & 4450. TB: S S Attaollahi. Fav: Refined Aggression.

5. The Sir M Visvesvararaya Memorial Trophy - 1400M: Money Bags (Capt Jamshed Appoo, Manoj Kumar, Kaliyaperumal and J Ramesh) S Antony Raj 1, Efficacy (Suraj Narredu) 2, Rodney (Pavan) 3, Lux Aeterna (Aditya Waydande) 4. WB: 7 1/4, 3 3/4, 2 1/4. T: 1:25.66. Tote: Rs 15 (w) 13, 10 p; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 24; Fc: Rs 48; Q: Rs 24; Tri: Rs 48 & 18; Exp: Rs 68 & 44. TB: P Prasanna Kumar. Fav: Money Bags.

6. The Romantic Dancer Plate - 1400M: Prince Of Wales (S Antony Raj) 1, Alamgir (Suraj Narredu) 2, Lena (Ashhad Asbar,) 3, Bulletproof (A Sandesh) 4. WB: 2 1/2, 2 1/4, Nose. T: 1:27.99. Tote: Rs 51 (w) 14, 15, 14 p; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 46; Fc: Rs 129; Q: Rs 64 ; Tri: Rs 481 & 227; Exp: Rs 727 & 260. TB: P Prasanna Kumar. Fav: Bulletproof.

7. The Prince Khartoum Plate - 1200M: Stravinsky (Anil K Joseph) Suraj Narredu 1, Corinthian (A Sandesh) 2, Windcleaver (Mukesh Kumar) 3, Flash (Rayan Ahmed) 4. WB: 3 3/4, 3 1/4, Nose. T: 1:15.31. Tote: Rs 21 (w) 13, 16, 33 p; Shp: Rs 37; Thp: Rs 88; Fc: Rs 77; Q: Rs 43; Tri: Rs 1402 & 854; Exp: Rs 4194 & 1112. TB: Narayana Gowda. Fav: Stravinsky.

Jackpot: Rs 7990 & 853. **Mini Jackpot:** Rs 3262. **Treble I:** Rs 300. **Treble II:** Rs 218.

Siege Storm for the BTC Karnataka Juvenile Million

BENGALURU SELECTIONS

P Prasanna Kumar-trained Siege Storm, to be ridden by Akshay Kumar, is odds on favourite to win The Bangalore Turf Club Karnataka Juvenile Million, to be run over 1400 metres, the feature event of the races here at the BTC on on Sunday.

First race starts at 2.00 pm.

1. The Endorsement Plate -- 1600M: Ashwa New York 1, Digital Empress 2, Asterion 3.

2. The Aureole Time Plate (Div-I I) -- 1200M: Khazana 2, Amazing Storm 2, Miracle Beauty 3.

3. The World No Tobacco Day Plate (Div-I I) -- 1300M: Steely Challenge 1, Night Raider 2, Vibrant Queen 3.

4. The S G Madhukar Memorial Trophy -- 1400M: Alfonsine 1, Zayyan 2, Sunshine 3.

5. The Bangalore Turf Club Karnataka Juvenile Million 1400M: Siege Storm 1, Buckingham 2, D' Artagnan 3.

6. The Aureole Time Plate (Div-I I) 1200M: White Secret 1, Steffen 2, Dasadyu 3.

7. The World No Tobacco Day Plate (Div-I) 1300M: Valiant Stream 1, El Rey 2, Rocking Star 3.

Day's best: Ashwa New York.

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **Mini-jackpot**: 4, 5, 6 & 7. **I** treble: 2, 3 & 4. **II treble**: 5, 6 & 7.

Mani dazzles in HSFC victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mani Gowda struck four times as Hindu Socials FC edged Goans FC 5-3 in an eight-goal thriller in a Group 5 encounter of BDFA's C Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Saturday.

Mani scored twice in the first half (3rd and 30+1st minute) while Rajesh also added to the tally to give Hindu a 3-1 lead. Nithesh Kumar scored in the 11th minute to reduce the deficit. But Mani's two quick goals in second half made it easy for Hindu.

Results: Group 3: Rovers FC: 2 (Vishruth 10th, Puneeth 30th+1) bt Oriental FC: 0.

Group 4: Netaji FC: 3 (Sanjeet Shandilya 11th, Dipak Kumar Kunwar 41st, Joshua Rohan Philips 60th+1) bt JP Sports FC: 0; Konkan FC: 1 (Mohammed Naeemuddin 60th+2) bt Nationals FC: 0.

Group 5: Hindu Socials FC: 5 (Mani Gowda 3rd, 30th+1, 49th, 50th, Rajesh S 28th) bt Goans FC: 3 (Nithesh G Kumar 11th, Arun Kavimani 35th, Manish J 29th); East West FC: 7 (Michael R 2nd, 50th, Sureen S 5th, 13th, Sreekanth S 17th, Arun 43rd, Andru Surya S 49th) bt NP Kempegowda FC: 2 (Sarosh Paul Sha 24th, 59th).

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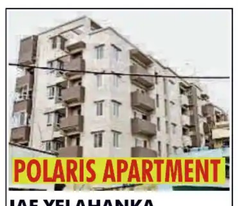

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WE, MR. CHANNAKESHAVA. A.C, and Mrs. SOWMYA. B, we are residing at No.88, Mathrushree Nivasa, 9th Cross, 1st Main Road, 5th Block, D Group Layout, Lingadheeranahalli, Natakada, Channappa Layout, Viswaneedam Post, Bangalore- 560091, have changed our minor daughter's name from KRUTHI. C to KRUTHI GOWDA. A.C, vide affidavit dated 17/3/2026 sworn to before Bharati Patil Advocate and Notary Bangalore

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EMPIRE OF THE MIND

Complicit silence: How we normalise domestic violence

Gurucharan Gollerkeri
The former civil servant enjoys traversing the myriad spaces of ideas, thinkers, and books

There are moments when a society is compelled to confront itself.

The recent brutal deaths of two young women – allegedly driven to despair and death by dowry harassment and domestic violence – are such moments. Beneath these sensational cases lies a darker, uncomfortable truth: India has not merely failed to eliminate violence against women; it has normalised it.

Violence does not always begin physically. It begins quietly – with control, humiliation, surveillance, emotional degradation, character assassination, financial dependence, and the erosion of dignity. By the time it becomes visible, it has hollowed out the human spirit. This is the tragedy of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): it hides in plain sight.

The National Family Health Survey indicates that close to 29% of ever-married women in India have experienced spousal violence. These numbers are staggering enough. But they still understate reality, because countless women never report abuse – not to the police, not to courts, not even to their own families.

Silence on IPV in India is not accidental; it is systematically and socially engineered. Women are taught endurance as a virtue. Adjustment is romanticised. Suffering is moralised. Families advise daughters to 'compromise,' to 'save the marriage,' to 'think of the children,' even when the marriage itself becomes a site of terror. What makes this even more disturbing is the social ecology surrounding violence. Neighbours hear screams and look away. Relatives suspect abuse and remain silent. Communities whisper but seldom intervene. Violence becomes everybody's knowledge and nobody's responsibility.

The dowry system, despite legal prohibition and decades of reformist rhetoric, continues to mutate and survive within modern aspirations. In such a framework, women are subtly converted from persons into negotiated commodities or mere liabilities and assets. And yet, we continue to describe ourselves as a civilisation rooted in respect for women.

There is a deeper contradiction here that India must confront. We celebrate women's achievements in public life. We praise women scientists, women CEOs, women political leaders, women athletes, women fighter pilots. Indeed, in recent elections across several Indian states, women emerged as one of the most decisive voting blocs in the democratic process. But empowerment in the public sphere often coexists with subordination in the private sphere. A woman may vote independently, earn independently, and speak confidently in public – and yet return home to coercion, intimidation, and abuse.

This is why domestic violence cannot be understood merely as a law-and-order issue. It is fundamentally a crisis of social consciousness. India does possess laws. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, is progressive in scope. Anti-dowry laws exist. Legal safeguards exist. But the distance between legislation and lived reality remains immense. Enforcement is uneven. Police response is often insensitive. Judicial processes are slow. Social stigma discourages reporting. Economic dependence traps women within abusive environments.

Most importantly, society itself often refuses to recognise non-physical violence as violence. A husband controlling his wife's finances is normalised. Emotional humiliation is dismissed as marital differences. Isolation from friends and family is rationalised as concern. Sexual coercion within marriage remains buried beneath cultural silence. The bruises we cannot see are often the wounds that last the longest. At the heart of IPV lies the question of power – not momentary anger, but sustained domination. Violence becomes a mechanism to enforce subordination. And this has consequences far beyond individual households.

Violence reproduces itself across generations, slowly shaping the emotional character of society itself. A nation cannot aspire towards social harmony while normalising brutality within homes.

What then must change? We must: First, see what is often unseen – recognise the many forms of violence beyond the physical. Second, speak when it is easier to remain silent – advocate within your spheres of influence. Third, act where you are – because communities are not abstract entities; they are made up of individuals like us.

Domestic violence must cease to be treated as a 'private family matter.' The home cannot become a constitutional blind spot where dignity and rights are suspended. As communities, we must rediscover moral courage. Sometimes, intervention begins not with institutions, but with ordinary acts of humanity – asking questions, offering support, believing survivors, and refusing silence. One abuse survivor, when asked what helped her most, answered simply: 'Someone believed me.' That sentence should haunt us. Because behind every reported case are countless unreported lives lived in fear, humiliation, and loneliness. And behind every death that becomes headline news are thousands of quieter tragedies unfolding without witness.

Until India confronts the violence against women that it has normalised within its homes, its claims of progress will remain morally hollow.

And perhaps the greatest tragedy is not merely that these women died. It is that, as a society, we had long stopped listening while they were still alive.

OUTSIDE

The worlds we bring home

'Everything was withdrawn as far as possible,/in drawn.' I've always tripped over these lines from Elizabeth Bishop's poem *The End of March*. I know many of the things that most readers do – that it's a coastal poem, that its rhythm comes from the movement of the sea in the first stanzas and the behaviour of light in the concluding ones; I can experience the syntax of the words when I'm in the poem. But as soon as I take them out of the poem, I don't know what to do with them. It's a problem that's different from, say, taking an eye or both out of a mammalian face. The eyes *outside* a face are pretty useless in a way that lines culled from a poem are not. Quotes appeal to us, outside of their donor bodies, in a way that scooped-out eyes don't. All this we know. I notice the tussle happening in the pair of expressions: 'withdrawn' and 'in drawn'. I see it – the land, the shore, is like the pot-bellied person pulling in their stomach for a photo. But I'm stubborn, I want to explore its life outside the poem.

A few things happen as these lines swim inside me. I read an interview with Vivek Shanbhag about his writing and the act of translation: 'I write in Kannada, which is not my mother tongue. My mother tongue is Konkani. Konkanis are people who migrated South from Goa, and the stories of this migration are kept alive in every Konkani home... The Konkanis left Goa after the Portuguese arrived – they feared conversion. As migrants, two things are striking. At home, they protected their language and culture, but outside, they were remarkably resilient, adapting to their surroundings. In Karnataka, they began writing Konkani in Kannada script; in Kerala, they adopted Malayalam. Today, Konkani is written in five scripts... Speech is mutually intelligible, but writing is not. That in itself is a powerful metaphor for the community's worldview. So, there were multiple worlds. At home, we spoke Konkani, but outside, Kannada. Every outside experience, when brought back home, had to be translated. This act of translation was constant, sometimes involving the direct borrowing of Kannada words and phrases. The borders between languages were porous. It sounds romantic now, but at the time, it felt completely natural.'

Sumana Roy
is an author and poet. Her books include *How I Became a Tree* and *Provincials*

Every outside experience, when brought back home, had to be translated. Seemingly simple, it is a remarkable observation. We are all aware of being different people to different people and different people to the outside and inside. But are we conscious of being translators as a condition of our existence? What kind of training equips us with the guile and gumption to be natural translators? *Everything was withdrawn as far as possible,/in drawn*. Is this act of translating—not just for the benefit of the family or other residents of the house, but primarily for oneself—enabled by 'withdrawing' and 'in drawn'? What might have happened to us – as people, as artists – if there was no difference between the language of the outside and that of the inside?

Colm Toibin, writing about Bishop's poem, says: 'The picture she draws of the beach and the seascape has an oddly intense melancholy despite the casual diction. Rather than Vermeer now, it seems that the presiding spirit is more that of Cezanne, or a northern version of Cezanne, with part of the surface left blank... much that is filled with bareness, absence. Phrase after phrase in the poem adds up to something mysteriously beyond the phrases, or within them, pulling the eye, or perhaps the mind, in toward a desolate, almost alien scenery.'

Toibin notices Bishop translating the outside for the inside in the way Shanbhag characterises the lifelong project of translation: the beach and the sea are translated into 'melancholy'; empty stretches of the beach into 'bareness, absence'; 'phrase after phrase' creates 'a desolate... alien scenery'.

How does this translation happen? Why must it happen? Is it a question of scale alone, this miniaturising of the outside so that it can fit into the inside? 'The whole shadow of Man is only as big as his hat,' Bishop writes in an early poem. It's not just the precision of imagery I notice. What is being condensed is man and the syntax of the outside – a three-letter word can hold another three-letter word: 'man' in a 'hat'.

I suppose this is how we survive – by creating this language of condensation, of translation, of restoration.

SANS THE SACRED

Truth, perception and elusive empathy

Just when you think that maybe the world is improving, news does a great job of jolting you back to reality. Take the dowry harassment cases in the country – you would think we might have moved beyond the practice, and yet, just the month of May brought with it the news about Deepika Nagar and Twisha Sharma. Giribala Singh, Twisha's mother-in-law and a former judge, has been giving numerous interviews to the media, and her callous remarks about her dead daughter-in-law are only less shocking than the hordes of people defending these remarks on social media.

What these comments show us is the difficulty of stepping outside one's personal experiences to see the world as it is. But that brings us to the bigger question – is there even truth independent of our seeing of it? This, precisely, was the topic of discussion between two unlikely interlocutors: Albert Einstein and Rabindranath Tagore, who met in 1930. Where Einstein argued for a conception of truth independent of human perception of it, Tagore maintained that there was no truth unmediated by human experience.

While I'm always talking about the Sanskrit epics, the *puranas*, and related narratives, sometimes, the folktales and vernacular adaptations are even more interesting than the text itself, and show all the different ways in which people have read the same tales. For instance, a popular folktale attaches itself to the figures of both Tulsidas and Samartha Ramdas. Let us assume it is Ramdas for this story.

The tale goes that while Ramdas narrated the story of the Ramayana to his disciples, he was divinely inspired by Valmiki to get everything right – to see the events of the Ramayana unfold as Valmiki had seen them.

Anusha S Rao
is the author of *How to Love in Sanskrit* and likes writing new things about very old things
@AnushaSRao2

Ramdas got to the emotional part of the story where Hanuman looks for Sita in the Ashoka grove in Lanka, and began to describe all that Hanuman saw in the grove: the lush trees, the white flowers, etc. At this point, there was a sharp interjection from someone in the audience who had been listening to the story with eyes welling up.

It was Hanuman, who, legend goes, always rushes to where the story of Rama is recited and listens to it with folded hands and tear-filled eyes.

But here, Hanuman strongly objected to Ramdas's narration of the events. Why? He insisted that the flowers in the Ashoka grove were not white, but red. Ramdas gently answered by saying that Valmiki had described the flowers as white. But Hanuman was far from convinced. After all, he had been an eyewitness to the whole episode – who could know better than him what the colour of the flowers was? They were crimson red, he insisted.

Who was to resolve the dispute between one devotee with divine vision and another who witnessed the event? Ramdas and Hanuman went straight to Rama, the hero of the story, to ask which of them was correct. But Rama only pointed out that he had never seen the Ashoka grove. So the two set off to meet the only other eyewitness who could verify the veracity of the story – Sita.

She affirmed that Ramdas was, indeed, correct. The flowers in the Ashoka grove were a pristine white. But, she smiled. Hanuman was not lying. He was so angry at Ravana for abducting Sita and at the *rakshasi*s for keeping her imprisoned that, in today's idiom, he saw red. His eyes, reddened in wrath, caused all the white flowers to look crimson to him.

Now, if you object that red eyes don't cause us to see the world in red, sure, you are right. But if only we could change our worldviews to empathise with the suffering of others, would the world not be a better place for it?

ROVING REFLECTIONS

India marches to its restless rhythm

The voters of West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala delivered their verdicts in the recent Assembly elections with characteristic Indian unpredictability. Chief ministers were anointed by party high commands, old certainties crumbled, and a new political formation led by a movie star was catapulted to power in Tamil Nadu. The results stunned almost everyone – not least our psephologists.

Celebrity pollsters who floated their own political parties and contested elections have even lost their deposits. Remember the quip? – "I wanted to become an astrologer, but I saw no future in it." Almost all of them got the elections wrong. In the aftermath, I was reminded of R K Narayan's unforgettable story, *An Astrologer's Day*.

The astrologer sits on a crowded street, his forehead streaked with sacred ash and vermilion. Before him lie cowrie shells, mystic charts, and cryptic signs. His eyes sparkle with what customers mistake for prophetic brilliance, though the gleam comes merely from a relentless hunt for customers. The astrologer knows no more of the future than the men who sit before him. Yet through observation, instinct, and shrewd guesswork, he says precisely what people long to hear.

He studies faces before speaking. He waits for clues. "Most of your troubles are due to your own nature," he tells one man. "How can you be otherwise with Saturn where he is?" The customer invariably agrees.

One evening, a stranger appears. The man challenges him: if the astrologer fails, he must refund the fee with interest. Stakes rise. The astrologer mutters vague incantations before suddenly saying, "You were left for dead once." The stranger stiffens. "You were stabbed," the astrologer continues. The man bares his chest and reveals the scar. "And then you were pushed into a well." The stranger asks, "When shall I find the man who did it?"

"In the next world," replies the astrologer calmly. "He died months ago, crushed under a lorry."

The man leaves satisfied. Only later does the astrologer confess to his wife that the stranger was the very man he himself once attacked and presumed dead in his youth. That night, for the first time in years, he sleeps peacefully.

Capt G R Gopinath (Retd.)
builds bridges, sometimes by tearing down walls. He is a soldier, farmer, and entrepreneur

Much of modern psephology resembles Narayan's astrologer – part intuition, part theatre, part deduction disguised as prophecy. Beneath the cacophony of Indian elections – their communal undertones, the bluster of ideologues, the promises of paradise delivered from chartered jets criss-crossing the hinterland – ordinary voters quietly arrive at their conclusions. Faced with uninspiring choices, they choose not perfection but what appears, at that moment, the lesser risk.

In West Bengal, the BJP trounced Mamata Banerjee. Hubris corrupts, and absolute arrogance corrupts absolutely. One only hopes Bengal does not leap from the frying pan into the fire.

The BJP prevailed in Assam by mobilising anxieties over demographic imbalance and immigration. Yet electoral victory alone cannot heal a fractured society. Unless Himanta Biswa Sarma governs as a conciliator rather than a conqueror, Assam risks sliding towards strife.

The BJP cannot gloat. In Tamil Nadu, it shrank from four seats to one. Its Hindutva card found few takers. Instead, C Joseph Vijay – a rank outsider and significantly, a Christian – captured the imagination of the masses. Vijay's rise signalled fatigue with the DMK and AIADMK that had alternated power and patronage for six decades.

In Kerala, Rahul Gandhi – long mocked as a dithering dilettante and reluctant prince in the mould of Hamlet – rode back to political relevance. The BJP's polarising tactics failed; the party secured only three seats. The Communist government, increasingly authoritarian and tainted by corruption allegations, was swept aside.

One message rings unmistakably through these verdicts: India is in profound churn. Its democratic temperament remains restless, argumentative, and gloriously resistant to prediction.

India has never been still. She moves constantly – sometimes forward, sometimes sideways, sometimes in turbulent circles – but never into silence. Empires have risen and collapsed upon her soil; faiths arrived as pilgrims and departed as rulers; markets seduced, plundered, and reinvented themselves in endless disguises. Through every upheaval, India has absorbed shocks without surrendering its civilisational pulse.

India is neither a chronicle of despair nor a hymn of blind nationalism. It is merely an attempt to listen carefully to a civilisation arguing with itself. Power wrestles with conscience. Faith collides with fear. In the land of *Kamasutra*, love is often suppressed and even criminalised. Markets surge ahead while the poor remain stoic.

However, India remains – against all odds – a civilisation that refuses to break. And its ordinary people remain the quiet glue holding it together.

POORVA PAKSHA

Money and the cockroach party: When revolution meets rug pull

Aakash Singh Rathore
as Dr Jekyll is a Professor of Philosophy, Politics and Law, author and editor of over 20 books and counting, and as Mr Hyde, one of India's top-ranking Ironman triathletes
@ASR_metta

A week ago, I was chastising my twenty-year-old daughter for never having gotten into "good trouble": she had not protested, had not marched, had never fought the man. At her age, I already had a respectable rap sheet and threats of school expulsion for refusing to be a brick in the wall, à la Pink Floyd. The joke, it turns out, was on me. She was in the process of buying $CJP, the memecoin launched by anonymous actors riding on the coattails of the viral Cockroach Janta Party (CJP).

The revolution, it seems, has a ticker symbol. The $CJP token unironically evokes Pink Floyd's 1973 song '*Money*' from *The Dark Side of the Moon*:

'Money, get away. Get a good job with good pay and you're okay. Money, it's a gas. Grab that cash with both hands and make a stash.'

The press, national and international, has been asking the obvious questions. Can this go offline and become a real political party? Is it merely slacktivism, all noise, no action? Commentators have drawn parallels to Nepal's Gen Z uprising, to Sri Lanka, to Bangladesh. I'm not interested in rehearsing those arguments. What troubles me is whether CJP has already become something else entirely: a pump-and-dump scheme disguised as generational awakening. And here, the story takes a turn that the draft manifestos and the #MainBhiCockroach hashtags do not quite prepare you for.

'Money, get back. I'm all right, Jack, keep your hands off of my stack. Money, it's a hit. Don't give me that do goody-good bullshit'.

Now, we have to note that the $CJP token was not issued by Abhijeet Dipke or the party, but by anonymous third parties on Pump.fun, a permissionless Solana platform. Dipke has publicly distanced himself from the token. The $CJP coin is thus not an institutional social token but a speculative memecoin issued by opportunists who recognised that a viral political moment was, above all else, a market.

This means that the movement's very success – its leaderless, decentralised, meme-driven virality – rendered it instantly exploitable. The brand was so loosely held that anyone could monetise it before the founders had even decided what they wanted to do with it. My daughter, it turns out, was not trying to buy into a revolution, but into a market.

'Money, it's a crime. Share it fairly but don't take a slice of my pie. Money, so they say is the root of all evil today. But if you ask for a raise it's no surprise that they're giving none away'.

To acquire $CJP, you need disposable income, access to cryptocurrency exchanges, a smartphone capable of running wallet applications, and the financial literacy to navigate a speculative jungle. This immediately excludes the millions of poor Gen Z youth who are equally betrayed by the current economy, equally disillusioned with the political *status quo*, and equally deserving of a voice in whatever movement claims to represent their generation.

The CJP's rhetoric speaks to precarity, to being left out to dry, to a generation that has been promised everything and delivered nothing. The party's five-point manifesto is, for all its satirical packaging, a serious indictment of institutional failure. Yet the speed with which its brand was colonised by a memecoin reveals a weakness in the movement's architecture: its symbols are powerful, but loosely defended. The very people who most need a movement – the unemployed youth in tier-two and tier-three cities, the daily-wage workers in their twenties struggling to survive, the rural young and especially the socially marginalised who lack access to formal banking, let alone crypto wallets – are locked out from the start.

The CJP now stands at a fork in the road. It can either become a genuine electoral force – requiring offline organising, coalition-building with the poor, and material demands backed by sustained pressure – or it can remain a digital spectacle for the laptop class, a meme that briefly captured attention before fading into the archives.

Occupy Wall Street, which I witnessed from Zuccotti Park in the autumn of 2011, fizzled because it had no concrete demands and no mechanism for translating energy into power. The CJP has demands – specific, institutional, and largely sound – but it risks fizzling because its brand has been captured by forces it cannot control. A movement that cannot protect its own name from anonymous crypto opportunists is not yet ready to take on the State.

This revolution will not be televised. It will be tokenised.

When schizophrenia enters a family, the hardest part is not always the symptoms. It is recognising that what looks like stubbornness, stress, or withdrawal may actually be the mind losing its grip. **Alok Kulkarni** explores what families should notice, what treatment can do and why early help matters

Inside a different reality

On a humid evening, a young software engineer sat in my consultation room with his parents. He had not slept properly for several nights. His eyes moved constantly — towards the door, then his phone, then the ceiling fan. "They are watching me," he said softly. His father tried to explain. "Doctor, he has become stubborn. He was always introverted. Now he says strange things."

The young man was frightened. He believed colleagues were planting messages for him in office emails. He thought strangers on the road recognised him. He had stopped eating food cooked at home because he feared it had been poisoned. His mother broke down.

This is often how psychosis begins, not like cinema — dramatic, chaotic and unmistakable — but as confusion inside ordinary homes. A son locks himself in a room. A daughter stops attending college. A husband becomes suspicious. A student becomes convinced that his classmates are talking about him.

Families search for explanations first: stress, laziness, heartbreak, mobile phones, substance use, bad company, black magic, arrogance. By the time they reach a psychiatrist, months, sometimes years, may have passed.

In recent months, schizophrenia briefly entered public conversation for an unexpected reason. US Health Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr. drew attention after suggesting that a ketogenic diet could cure schizophrenia, a claim that goes far beyond current scientific evidence. Researchers are exploring whether metabolic interventions, including ketogenic diets, may eventually play a supportive role for some patients. But there is no credible evidence that diet alone cures schizophrenia. Standard treatment remains psychiatric, medical and multidisciplinary care.

The attention around those remarks reflects something larger than a disagreement about food. Schizophrenia has always attracted simple explanations and dramatic promises: stress, parenting, spirituality, personality, nutrition, willpower, one breakthrough treatment. Families facing frightening symptoms understandably want one clear answer and one clear solution. But schizophrenia rarely behaves that way.

What schizophrenia is & is not

Schizophrenia is a mental illness that affects how a person thinks, feels, behaves and experiences reality. It is not a split personality. It does not mean a person is weak, possessed, morally flawed or incapable of recovery.

In schizophrenia, the brain can begin to interpret the world differently. A person may hear voices that others cannot hear. They may hold fixed beliefs that are not grounded in reality: that they are being followed, controlled, poisoned or targeted. Their speech may become difficult to follow. Their behaviour may appear unusual or disorganised. Others withdraw. They stop studying or working. Hygiene slips.

Doctors often describe symptoms as positive and negative. These terms are misleading. Positive symptoms are not desirable symptoms. They are experiences added to ordinary mental life: hallucinations, delusions and disorganised thinking. Negative symptoms are losses: motivation, emotional expression, social interest, energy and initiative. Many people also experience difficulties with attention, planning, memory and decision-making.

Globally, schizophrenia affects a relatively small but significant proportion of people. The World Health Organisation describes it as a serious mental health condition associated with psychosis, disability and stigma, while emphasising that treatment and support allow many people to live meaningful lives.

Schizophrenia is treatable. Recovery does not always mean the complete absence of symptoms. More often, it means fewer relapses, stable relationships, meaningful work, greater independence and the return of ordinary life.

Early signs

The earliest signs are often easy to miss. A student who once performed well begins falling behind. A young professional stops returning calls. Someone warm becomes emotionally distant. Sleep changes, and suspicion creeps in. The person spends long hours alone, mutters to themselves, smiles without an obvious reason, becomes unusually preoccupied with abstract ideas, or starts saying that people are sending hidden messages. They may stop bathing, avoid eye contact and become fearful.

In cities such as Bengaluru, these changes are often explained away. "It's engineering pressure." "It's night shifts." "It's social media." "It's because she moved away from home." Sometimes those factors matter. But when unusual beliefs, persistent fear, hearing voices or social withdrawal continue over time, families should not wait for a crisis.

Caregivers matter

The longer psychosis remains untreated, the harder it can become to return to studies, work and relationships. Early treatment reduces distress, prevents escalation and helps families understand what is happening. One challenge is that many people with schizophrenia do not realise they are unwell. This is not ordinary denial. The illness itself can affect insight. To the person, the voices are real. The fear is real. The conspiracy feels real.

Telling someone, "This is all in your head," rarely helps. A better beginning is often: "I can see that you're frightened. Let's speak to someone who can help."

Misdiagnosis and stigma

In India, schizophrenia is often misunderstood before it is recognised. Some families first visit temples, astrologers or faith healers. Others move from one physician to another seeking answers for headaches, stomach complaints or sleep problems. Young people may be labelled undisciplined, lazy or irresponsible.

Substance use complicates the picture. Cannabis and other drugs can trigger or worsen psychosis in vulnerable people. At the same time, not every person experiencing psychosis has used substances. Families sometimes hold tightly to a single explanation because it feels less frightening than a psychiatric diagnosis. But stigma remains the greatest barrier.

The word "schizophrenia" still carries consequences beyond illness. It can affect marriage prospects, employment, housing and social acceptance. Families may hide the diagnosis, delay treatment or stop medicines early because they fear being judged.

Urban India often appears modern while remaining deeply uncomfortable with severe mental illness. A young person hearing voices in a paying guest accommodation may still be called "mad" before they are helped. A family in a gated community may feel unable to explain why their son has been admitted to the hospital. The result is silence. And silence delays care.

Treatment and management

Treatment for schizophrenia usually involves more than one form of support: medication, psychological care, family education and rehabilitation. Medication is often necessary because psychosis is not simply a matter of attitude or willpower. Antipsychotic medicines can reduce hallucinations, suspiciousness, agitation and disorganised thinking. Treatment must be individualised, monitored and adjusted depending on response and side effects.

One of the most difficult moments in care comes after improvement. Many people understandably ask: If I feel better, do I still need treatment? For schizophrenia, the answer is often yes. Like diabetes, hypertension or heart disease, schizophrenia may require long-term management. Stopping medicines suddenly can increase the risk of relapse. Each relapse can interrupt education, employment, relationships and confidence.

But treatment is not only about tablets. A good care plan asks practical questions.

- Is the person sleeping?
- Are they eating?
- Are they using cannabis or alcohol?
- Can they return to college gradually?
- Does work need temporary adjustments?
- Is the family overwhelmed?
- Would cognitive rehabilitation, counselling, occupational therapy, supported education or social skills training help?

Some people benefit from long-acting injectable medicines, especially when taking daily medication becomes difficult. Others may need hospital admission during severe episodes — particularly when there is refusal of food, severe self-neglect, suicidal thoughts, extreme agitation or safety concerns. Recovery, though, is rarely linear. There may be good months and difficult months. Progress should not be measured only by whether symptoms disappear. Sleeping through the night again, bathing regularly, taking short walks, returning to studying, and working part-time, these can all be meaningful markers of recovery.

There has also been a shift in how schizophrenia is understood. Researchers increasingly describe it as a condition involving brain function, cognition, perception and neurodevelopment, while recognising that psychological and social experiences influence both illness and recovery. Treatment today extends beyond symptom control. Antipsychotic medicines remain the foundation of care, but newer approaches increasingly include cognitive remediation and more personalised approaches that look at functioning and quality of life, not just symptom reduction.

Family support

In India, families often become the mental health system. They bring the person to the hospital, pay for treatment, supervise medicines and manage crises. In the process, they absorb all the fear, uncertainty and exhaustion. Which is way familes and caregivers need support.

Spouses struggle with trust, responsibility and intimacy. Some families become overprotective, while others become critical or withdrawn. The most effective response, however, is calm, informed and consistent care.

A more humane way forward

Schizophrenia tests not only the person living with it but also the humanity of the society around them. Do we see the individual behind the symptoms? Do we offer treatment before a crisis? Do we protect dignity? Do we leave space for work, relationships, recovery and ordinary life?

Schools and colleges must recognise early warning signs. Workplaces should make graded returns possible. Families should be able to seek help without shame. Media must stop using "schizophrenic" as shorthand for confusion, contradiction or danger. Most of all, we need to replace fear with understanding.

I still remember the young man in my consultation room. His recovery did not happen in one day. There were medicines, family meetings, and periods of intense doubt. But two weeks later, he was sleeping again, and six weeks later, he had returned to part-time work. Life was not perfect, but it became possible again.

The author is a senior consultant psychiatrist at Manas Institute of Mental Health, Hubballi.

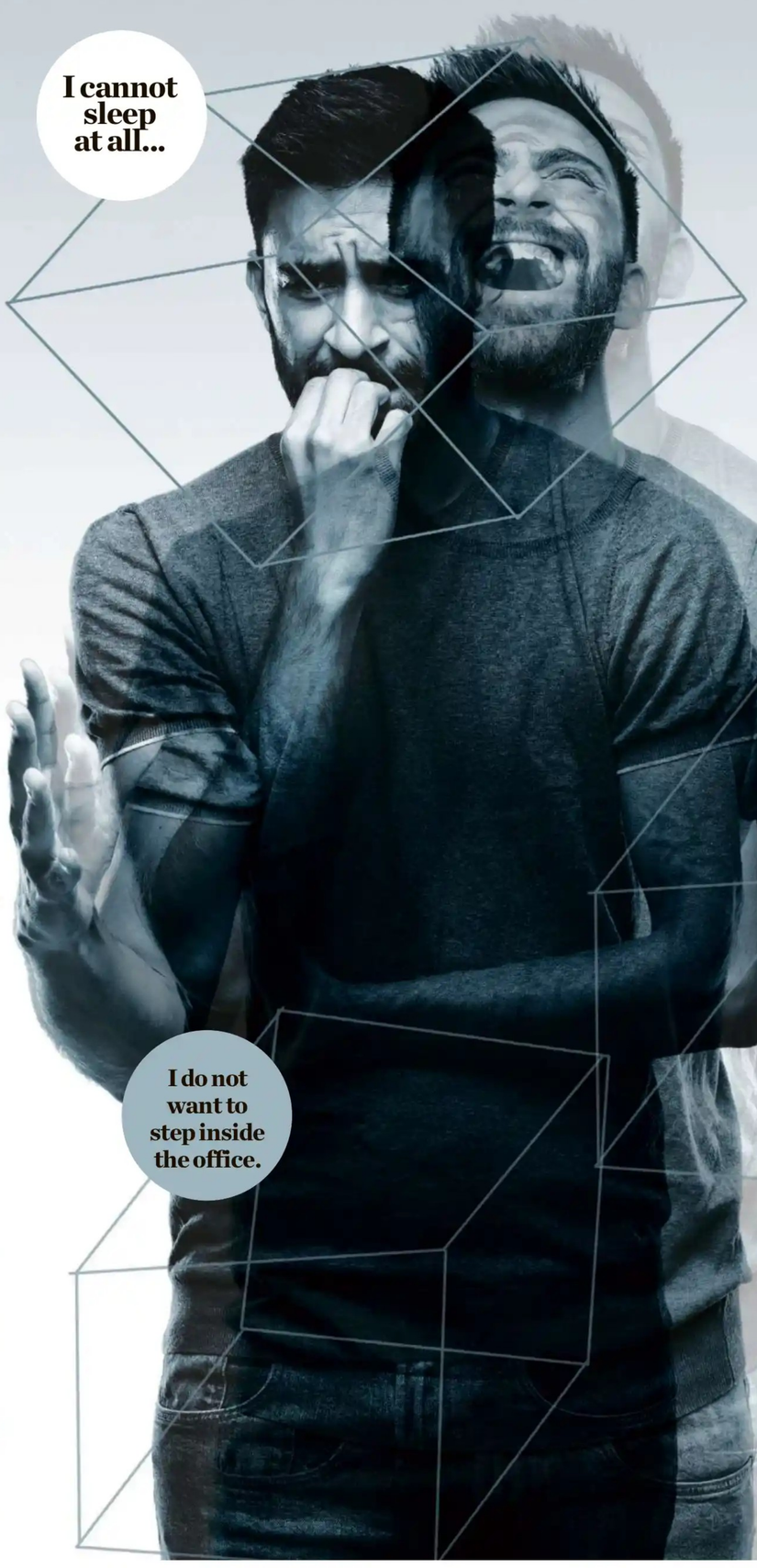

They are all watching me...
Who's there, answer!
I am slowly being poisoned...
I do not want to eat at home.
Strangers are sending me emails!
I cannot sleep at all...
I do not want to take a shower!
I do not want to step inside the office.
All my colleagues are plotting against me...

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

How to offer support

- Do not argue endlessly about delusions.
- Do not mock voices.
- Do not threaten hospital admission as punishment.
- Do not stop treatment because someone says medicines are habit-forming.
- Do not talk about the person as though they are absent from the room.
- Try to listen for the emotion beneath the symptom.
- A person saying, "People are following me," may be fearful.
- Someone refusing food may be terrified, not difficult.
- Someone sitting silently may be overwhelmed, not lazy.
- Learn to recognise signs of relapse.
- A written crisis plan helps.
- Keep the treating doctor's contact details, emergency numbers, and current medicines in one place.

If in doubt, seek help

- Tele-MANAS: Call 14416 or 1-800-891-4416 for free and confidential mental health support
- Nimhans offers psychiatry and community mental health services.
- Schizophrenia Awareness Association: Provides awareness and support initiatives.

MIXED BAG

'Mixed Bag' is your Sunday potpourri — an assortment of snappy articles, engaging ideas and snackable nibbles about this and that, from here and there. Dip in!

Pahari paintings at the Smithsonian

'Of the Hills: Pahari Paintings from India's Himalayan Kingdoms' is currently on view at the Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art in Washington DC. Juxtaposing canonical masterpieces and never-before-seen works, the exhibition's 48 paintings and coloured drawings reveal the ingenuity of artists who drew from both local and transregional traditions.

For centuries, scores of small Hindu kingdoms dotted the region where the tallest mountains on Earth rose from the plains of north India. Around 1630, their rulers began commissioning paintings that proved extraordinary — some with intricate details, delicate shading and naturalistic figures; others vivid, glittering and stylised.

'Raja Mandhata as a musical mode', album leaf with painting, 1690. PICS COURTESY: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ASIAN ART

Debra Diamond, the Elizabeth Moynihan Curator for South and Southeast Asian Art, said in a press release that these paintings, which have been created with opaque watercolours made from ground pigments, beetle wings and gold, are among the least well understood, although they are some of the most beloved of Indian paintings.

Challenging the methodologies of traditional art histories, 'Of the Hills' explores the impact of collaboration on creativity in three key periods from 1620 to 1830. The chronological framework invites visitors to appreciate the boldness of abstractions, the nuances of love and the many visual details that are, by turns, clever, humorous and awe-inspiring. An introductory gallery acquaints visitors with the region by exploring how painters helped establish the Himalayas as a sacred geography.

Some of these artworks have never been exhibited publicly before. Many come from the museum's 2017–2018 acquisitions from the collection of Ralph Benkaim and art historian Catherine Glynn Benkaim. 'Of the Hills' brings these works into conversation with the museum's historic collections and paintings from the Cleveland Museum of Art.

In a press release, Chase F Robinson, director of the National Museum of Asian Art, said these paintings from the Benkaim collection that are going on public display for the first time are an opportunity to deepen our understanding of Indian culture and pursue new avenues of scholarship.

'Of the Hills' will run concurrently with 'Epic of the Northwest Himalayas: Pahari Paintings from the 'Shangri' Ramayana' at the Cleveland Museum of Art and 'Longing: Painting from the Pahari Kingdoms, 1680–1820' at the Cincinnati Museum of Art. The Smithsonian, which is the world's largest museum complex, welcomes 20–30 million visitors yearly. Located on the National Mall in Washington DC, the museum is free to visit.

The exhibition will run till July 2026. For more information, visit the museum's website.

DHNS

FEEDBACK
Like this story? Write to us at **dhonsunday@deccanherald.co.in**

ASTROSPEAK

Guruji Shrii Arnav

Scan the QR code to read the ***weekly horoscope***

This is a treasure trove of popular folklore and legends spanning the entire Himalayan range, showcasing the region's diversity, writes Sudipta Datta

Storytellers of the MAGIC MOUNTAIN

Gokhale talks about an animistic belief in nature's power and the stubborn spirit of the mountain people. Seen here are traditional artists performing a masked dance during a festival in Ladakh.

VOICES IN THE WIND
Namita Gokhale & Malashri Lal (Eds)
Penguin, pp 336, Rs 999

The epigraph of Stephen Alter's fascinating book, Wild Himalaya, is taken from a creation story of the Bugun tribe from Arunachal Pradesh. The tale, which appears in Myths of the North-East Frontier of India by Verrier Elwin, narrates how the Himalaya range came into being. "Long ago, before the earth or the sky was made, Zongma, who is the greatest of all, had two sons, Nipu and Nili. Nipu and Nili were without form; they were not human beings, they were not animals, nor were they like rocks. Many ages passed, and then Nili made the earth, and Nipu put the sky like a lid above it. But the lid was too small, and Nipu said, 'Brother, make the earth smaller so that the sky will fit it.' So Nili pushed and pulled the soil together until the sky and earth were the same size, and as a result, parts of the world stood up as mountains."

Though this story doesn't feature in Voices in the Wind, edited by Namita Gokhale and Malashri Lal, their treasure trove of popular folklore, myths and legends encompassing the entire Himalaya range, and written by a host of writers, showcases the diversity of the region as well as its distinct identity. India has a rich oral tradition of songs and storytelling, and like fairy tales, as Gokhale reminds readers of this geography-specific anthology, they are not only for children but adults as well.

The beautifully designed edges and six woodblock prints by artist Nalinakshya Talukdar, who works tirelessly to preserve the ancient art form of woodcut printmaking, add to the charm and atmosphere of the book.

In the Introduction, Gokhale mentions common threads of the Himalaya like flora and fauna, food and music, climate and cropping patterns, river systems, an animistic belief in nature's power, "and the stubborn and cussed spirit of its people."

The people of the land, particularly the women, keep the stories alive and breathing. As the editors point out, "given the shared geology, the emphasis on harmony between humans and nature recurs across all the folklore, though it takes different forms." There are gods and demons, kings and queens, shamans and spirits, ghosts and demons, ogres and tricksters, an array of animals from the ibex (significant in Balti culture), shape-shifting Nagas (snakes) to the python, jackals, dogs, and trees which talk.

With a sweeping geography, extending from Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh in the Western Himalaya, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in Central Himalaya, Bhutan, Sikkim and North Bengal in Central-Eastern Himalaya to Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura in North-Eastern Himalaya, there are plenty of tales and parables which are an essential part of life in the mountains.

These are not just good versus evil homilies but an affirmation of the complexities of life. For instance, the tale of the Snake Prince of Ladakh, writes Vyshnevi, "is a cherished legend, whispered by Ladakhi parents to their children on cold nights, a story of transformation, clever tricks and the enduring power of love."

The stories from the Central Himalaya "position nature and divinity in intimate communion," where forests, mountains and the river Sutlej are "figures of unimaginable power and beauty." In Himachal Pradesh, the deodar tree or 'tree of the god' is considered sacred, and thus remains protected from being cut down, a tradition which helps prioritise "nature's protection above all else."

Fables from the Central-Eastern Himalaya region also have a strong human-animal-nature connect with the "spirits often protective rather than punishing".

Both Sikkim and Bhutan are polyphonic, and their many dialects echo across hills and dales, preserving their history and culture. A Tale of Pema, narrated by the Queen Mother of Bhutan, Gyalyum Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, is the eponymous story of a spirited young girl who frees her parents from a terrible curse by showing remorse and compassion.

The Bhutanese writer Kunzang Choden begins her stories in the tradition of her land, with Dangbo...o..., Dingbo...o, two words which draw people together to listen to a story from a long time ago. One of her tales is about Grandfather HeylayHeylay, who was not attached to material things. What brought him happiness was singing to his heart's content.

The North-Eastern Himalaya, made up of the seven northeastern states, has a valued tradition of oral history as writers like Mamang Dai, Easterine Kire, Janice Pariat and Kynpham Sing Nongkynrih have highlighted in their works. The natural world takes centre stage and "a sense of interconnectedness pervades: humans born from clouds and eggs, women birthing tortoises or tigers once human." Spirit encounters abound, and as a character in Avinuo Kire's Where the Cobbled Paths Lead says, "... if things get unbearable, we can always turn into hornbills [the emblematic bird of Nagaland] and fly far, far away."

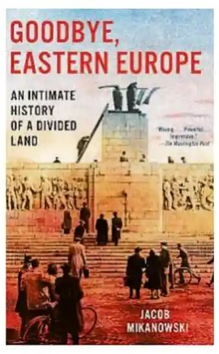
By gathering tales from all across the Himalaya, Gokhale and Lal have ensured that these diverse and unique stories of man and nature will be passed on.

The Europe you don't hear about...

This is a fascinating journey through the many countries that make up Eastern Europe and a timely one given the endless Ukraine war, writes Sagar Atre

Jacob Mikanowski's introduction to the book 'Goodbye, Eastern Europe' talks about the inferiority complex that affects a lot of residents of this kaleidoscopic set of countries sandwiched between Asia and Europe. The region is one of the richest tapestries of diverse cultures, languages and customs that has been home to many of the world's most powerful historical civilisations, but is seldom studied as closely as other parts of the world.

As part of his research, Mikanowski dives into many historical records, including some of his ancestors' recollections. His grandfather was a secret case officer in the Polish secret police, another ancestor who was a medieval soldier, and an aunt and uncle who had to get married thrice to fulfil documentary requirements of the various regimes in the region.



GOODBYE, EASTERN EUROPE
Jacob Mikanowski
OneWorld, pp 376, Rs NA

Instead of dividing the chapters by country, eras or regions, it turns to the history of Eastern Europe through a tour of its various religions and faiths, the rulers, empires and the political regimes ranging from the Mongols until the fall of the Soviet Union. The book is particularly timely given the Ukraine War and the ongoing dialogue about Eastern European identity.

From the early eleventh and twelfth centuries, the push of Western European empires to propagate Christianity clashed with the diverse pagan cultures that dwelled in harmony across these countries. Driven by forces like the Teutonic knights and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Christianity made a major push into these regions and sought to steamroll most of Eastern Europe, much like the Western part of the continent. However, this push was much harder given the diverse languages, tribes and customs in the region. Another complicating factor was the equally vigorous push of other empires like the Mongols, Ottomans, and later the Russian Empire. This clash of empires left the region rich with signs, symbols and cultures that display an amazing, if tenuous, syncretism.

One of the book's most delightful aspects is the generous sprinkling of tales of societies believing in magic, spirits, witches, miracles, messiahs and legendary warriors, something that is missing from most narratives that seriously discuss history. However, the beauty of Eastern Europe probably lies in its ability to absorb the magic and abstract beliefs across civilisations, and the book also serves to dispel myths of the clean-cut boundaries between science and more esoteric beliefs like astrology, mysticism and other such practices.

One such incident that the book captures is an 'accurate' horoscope by Tycho Brahe, Johannes Kepler's mentor, and the discoverer of supernovae. Brahe is a legendary scientist, but had apparently also made the horoscope of the then-Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II and predicted that he would die soon after his favourite, Mohammed the Lion, died. Rudolf indeed died three days after Mohammed the Lion.

Mikanowski's attention to the supernatural fits well with the last part of the book. The post-Second World War politics of the region, dominated by Stalinism and communism, were similarly irrational to having an allegiance to a mystic or religious cult. Communism and Stalinism replaced religion with an ideological mysticism and demanded absolute faithfulness. Needless to say, the end was the spectacular disillusionment among the Soviet countries that ultimately tore down the Iron Curtain after decades of its rule. The last chapters of the book about the War, the Holocaust, and the post-War Stalinist and Soviet regimes are a painful read, where for a lucky few, the only brief interludes to the inhuman shortages, political repression and casual cruelty were things like a smuggled handful of fresh ground coffee beans to make fresh, hot coffee, or freshly baked bread, privileges that now seem commonplace.

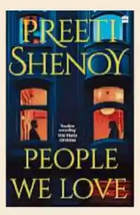
The book has some poignant descriptions of the outsize impact of luck and chance on millions of lives. People's fate was decided based on seemingly inconsequential decisions. The speed of shifting political landscapes meant that sometimes, someone gone for a week-long trip would never return, a part of the family would survive while the others became unfortunate pawns in the endless violence.

Reading this as an Indian, one line in the book hits home particularly hard; Mikanowski notes that many countries in Eastern Europe are lands with a surplus of history but a deficit of narrative, and countries are now striving to pick up the pieces of a divided, fractured past and organise it in a coherent historical narrative.

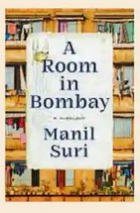
BOOKRACK

UPRISING
Tahmima Anam
Penguin, pp 208, Rs 699
On a desolate, sinking island, a group of children witness their mothers living lives of cruelty and servitude. Bought and sold by Amma, the sadistic madam who was once herself sold into slavery, the women have learned to accept their fate. Yet their children weave fantastic tales of escape.

ONCE THE DEED IS DONE
Rachel Seiffert
Hachette, pp 464, Rs 699
Drawing on the overlooked history of the millions of foreign labourers forced to work inside Nazi Germany, this is a cold-eyed novel about guilt, denial and the uneasy aftermath of survival.



PEOPLE WE LOVE
Preeti Shenoy
Harper, pp 288, Rs 399
Set against the pulse of contemporary India, this novel explores the tug-of-war between duty and desire, family and freedom, who we are and who we dare to be.



A ROOM IN BOMBAY
Manil Suri
Harper, pp 320, Rs 699
Set against the backdrop of a fast-transforming city, where the price of real estate keeps rising, and neighbours conspire to take over any available space, this is as much about a physical enclosure as it is about the human capacity to reach beyond.

HOMES WITHOUT WINDOWS
Chandu Maheria & H Ashwinkumar
Juggernaut, pp 256, Rs 699
Alongside this personal history runs the story of Maheria's intellectual formation, from his unsparing engagement with Gandhi's complex legacy to his arguments with fellow Dalit thinkers.

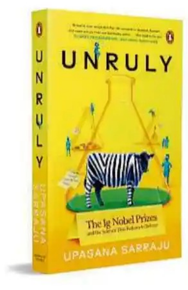
This playful journey into Ig Nobel science reveals how absurd questions often lead to unexpected findings, writes Sudhirendar Sharma

Two scientists who were awarded the Ig Nobel in 2006 argued that woodpeckers were nature's living experiment in how to best prevent head injuries.

When curiosity does not kill the cat

Why does a banana peel prompt a comical slip? Why does the zebra alone wear black stripes? Why don't woodpeckers get headaches? Why does toast land butter-side down by the time it hits the floor? These amusing observations spark playful curiosity that makes people laugh first and think later. And there is no shortage of such cases worth noticing.

This principle of laughing first and thinking later resonated with Marc Abrahams, who firmly believes that science can be serious and ridiculous at the same time. To cultivate a culture of playful scepticism and attentive inquiry that blends humour with academic rigour, Abrahams instituted the Ig Nobel Prizes in 1999. The 'Ig Nobel' stands as an antithesis to the idea that science must always be serious and sombre.



UNRULY
Upasana Sarraju
Penguin, pp 352, Rs 499

These prizes spotlight the absurdities of human endeavour without mocking the science embedded within them. Instead, they celebrate science's quirks, its questions and its capacity to illuminate the edges of human understanding. The Ig Nobels draw attention to work that might otherwise have been ignored forever.

That is true of the 2006 Ig Nobel Prize in Ornithology awarded to Ivan R Schwab and the late Philip May. As early as 1976, May argued that woodpeckers were nature's living experiment in preventing head injuries. But it took three decades before the value of the woodpecker's headstrong resilience, in resisting brain injury, was recognised as an engineering insight hidden within an evolutionary mystery.

Following years of research in pursuit of the Ig Nobels, science writer Upasana Sarraju has assembled a thoughtful and reflective compilation on weird science and the scientists whose curiosity nudged them towards the coveted prize, disproving the proverbial claim that curiosity killed the cat. Through twelve unusual stories, she presents extraordinary scientists in search of science. These achievements possess a curious quality, celebrating the enjoyable side of science while enticing readers to become interested in it.

Each prize justifies itself by being funny and radical at once. In 2012, an Ig Nobel Prize was awarded to a team of researchers for studying the dynamics of coffee spilling from a cup while walking. Beneath the humour lay close attention to walking speeds and the quantity of coffee in the cup. The interplay between the complex motion of the cup, the biomechanics of walking and low-viscosity liquid dynamics came under scientific scrutiny. One may wonder about its direct implications, yet such studies deepen our understanding of fluid behaviour under changing conditions.

The surprising slipperiness of a banana peel may seem frivolous as a scientific inquiry. Still, the 2014 Ig Nobel Prize in Physics opened discussions about designing safer flooring materials, particularly in public spaces such as hospitals and shopping centres.

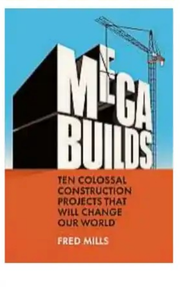
Across eleven chapters, Sarraju explores strange corners of inquiry through the work selected by Ig Nobel winners and curators, presenting science that is cool, interesting and real. These inimitable prizes are windows into the strange, wonderful and occasionally hilarious world of asking questions simply because they exist.

Weird yet ordered, predictable yet laughable, discovery itself is a thrill. The safest way to transport rhinos is by lifting them upside down. It sounds like a wild joke, but it turns out to be true. The same may even apply to transporting pigs. What does this mean? It means the world is full of scientists who are funny, odd and endlessly curious. It also reminds us that scientists can be eccentric, mischievous and deeply weird.

Written with delightful insight and enthusiasm, Sarraju explores what lies at the heart of scientific discovery. She shows how laughable beginnings can evolve into ideas that change the world. Each award is first encountered as an odd idea before becoming a concept for deeper exploration. In doing so, the author leaves readers with questions of their own. For instance, open the smelliest thing in your fridge and reflect. Does your brain light up with disgust, hunger or a primal urge to throw it far away?

Ultimately, our ability to imagine and seek out stranger realities may yet carry us towards an extraordinary future.

READ OF THE WEEK



Modern engineering is rewriting the rulebook and revolutionising how we live. In Mega Builds, Fred Mills, the founder of global construction platform The B1M, takes you inside ten of the most extraordinary engineering projects that are reshaping our modern world. From a 170km-long smart city in Saudi Arabia, to Japan's levitating railway and France's bold quest for limitless energy, Mills delivers an eye-opening tour of the biggest engineering challenges set to change the world as we know it.

The book explores why the world's biggest city has been built in the worst place imaginable, where the vision of a single ruler in the desert is rewriting our understanding of what's possible, and what drives us to build ever-higher buildings and design ever-faster trains. And above all, how the dizzying scale of human imagination will inform the future of the man-made world. Written in Fred's signature accessible style, Mega Builds demystifies the complexities while exploring the economic, environmental and societal stakes of building at unprecedented scale.

Fred Mills is a British filmmaker and founder of The B1M YouTube channel, the largest and most subscribed-to construction channel in the world, with over four million subscribers.

HE SAID/ SHE SAID *Indu Balachandran*

WHOSE WAR is it anyway?

There's a theory that when women get depressed, they go shopping. Men invade another country. Retail therapy may have well cured some war-prone women leaders in the nick of time.

But since the world has had way more male heads of state than female, we mostly hear of men in power declaring war. Names such as Nazi Germany's Hitler, and lately, leaders like Putin and Donald Trump loom large, when we think of war-driven leadership. Each embodies a certain archetype: the aggressive strongman. Hitler's was ideology combined with a ruthless urge to wipe out an entire race of humans, along with world domination. Putin's is territorial assertion: a cold resolve to acquire and control his rather vast neighbourhood. Both arise from an ego that declares — "hey world! Look how powerful I am." And now we have US President Trump; almost comic in his rage, America's "emperor without clothes" (like his naked statue that came up in Phoenix, Arizona some time back). A President, whose finger moves from tweeting war-rhetoric to hitting the war button with shocking, impulsive speed.

War often seems like a testosterone-fuelled game of male power. But remember Joan of Arc (just 17!) and Jhansi ki Rani, fearlessly charging on their horses into battlefields — raising bloodstained swords in triumph. Indian history is full of ambitious warrior queens: 13th-century Razia Sultana of Delhi, 16th-century Abbakka Rani Chowta and, Kittur Rani Chennamma of today's Karnataka, all of whom have defied stereotyping of women as incapable of war.

'Iron Ladies' of 20th century

Three strong women leaders of modern times, with nicknames like 'Iron Lady', have disproved gender expectations, declaring war when leadership demanded it. Golda Meir dismissed asides like "the best man in the government to run Israel" to lead her country against Arab nations, at the Yom Kippur war ('73). Margaret Thatcher's decisive response to fight Argentina's invasion of Falkland Islands ('82), resulted in a swift victory for Britain, demolishing her then image of a fragile female head. Former prime minister Indira Gandhi was once labelled a 'goongi gudiya' (dumb doll) by political rivals, underestimating her acumen. Till the victorious war against Pakistan in 1971, and the creation of Bangladesh — when her nickname changed to 'Durga', the goddess who vanquishes enemies!

Women and invisible wars

Female intuition and courage have helped many formidable women at the helm of a nation win. But then, women leaders don't need a political crisis to prove their battle-readiness. They've been in continuous combat training since adolescence.

Women have fought multiple invisible wars: against assumptions that ambition is unbecoming, against roles they shouldn't take, against unfair pay gaps at work, against unfair division of housework, against unfair judgement on how they should talk, walk, dress, and behave.

So yes, when a woman makes a tough call to go to war on the world stage, it may look extraordinary. But in fact, she's simply doing to scale what millions of women have been doing all along; navigating obstacles, advancing inch by inch, gaining small victories, and when the occasion demands, going on the offensive. And winning!

(He Said/She Said is a monthly column on gender issues — funny side up. Reach the author at indubee8@yahoo.co.in.)

Every year, Koovagam in Tamil Nadu hosts an 18-day festival where thousands of transgender women come together to participate not just in the rituals associated with it but also to celebrate a sense of community, writes Shino Cherian

OF FAITH & resilience

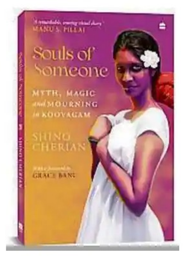
While we were on our way to Koovagam, sitting next to us in the train, an old man with a white beard told us, "Have a little faith. There's magic in the night, and if you only believe, you'll find magic everywhere." I have always believed in the miracles of life. My journey from being a filmmaker to becoming an author has been a wonderful miracle, too. My debut book is about my life-changing journey to Koovagam, where thousands of transgender women come together every year to participate in one of the most extraordinary festivals in the world. It is one-of-a-kind.

Spread across 18 days, the festival celebrates the lives of trans women and provides them an opportunity to find a community and family of their own. The first few days are marked by beauty pageants and sexual-health awareness workshops, and a slew of other activities, from group dances to travelling markets. On the last two days, the festival peaks.

Thousands of aravanis (trans women) enter the Koothandavar temple to marry the deity, Lord Aravan, in a mass marriage ceremony. The priests tie thalis to the aravanis' necks and declare them Aravan's brides. Dressed in their finest clothes and jewels, the brides celebrate their joyous union with the deity, even as they prepare to mourn the figurative death of their husband the next day, when their thalis are broken and they become widows of Aravan — all in the span of a few hours. This is a truly intriguing series of events, and most people do not know about this remarkable festival in India.

The festival at Koovagam gives trans women a sense of belonging. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR/SOULS OF SOMEONE

What the festival signifies



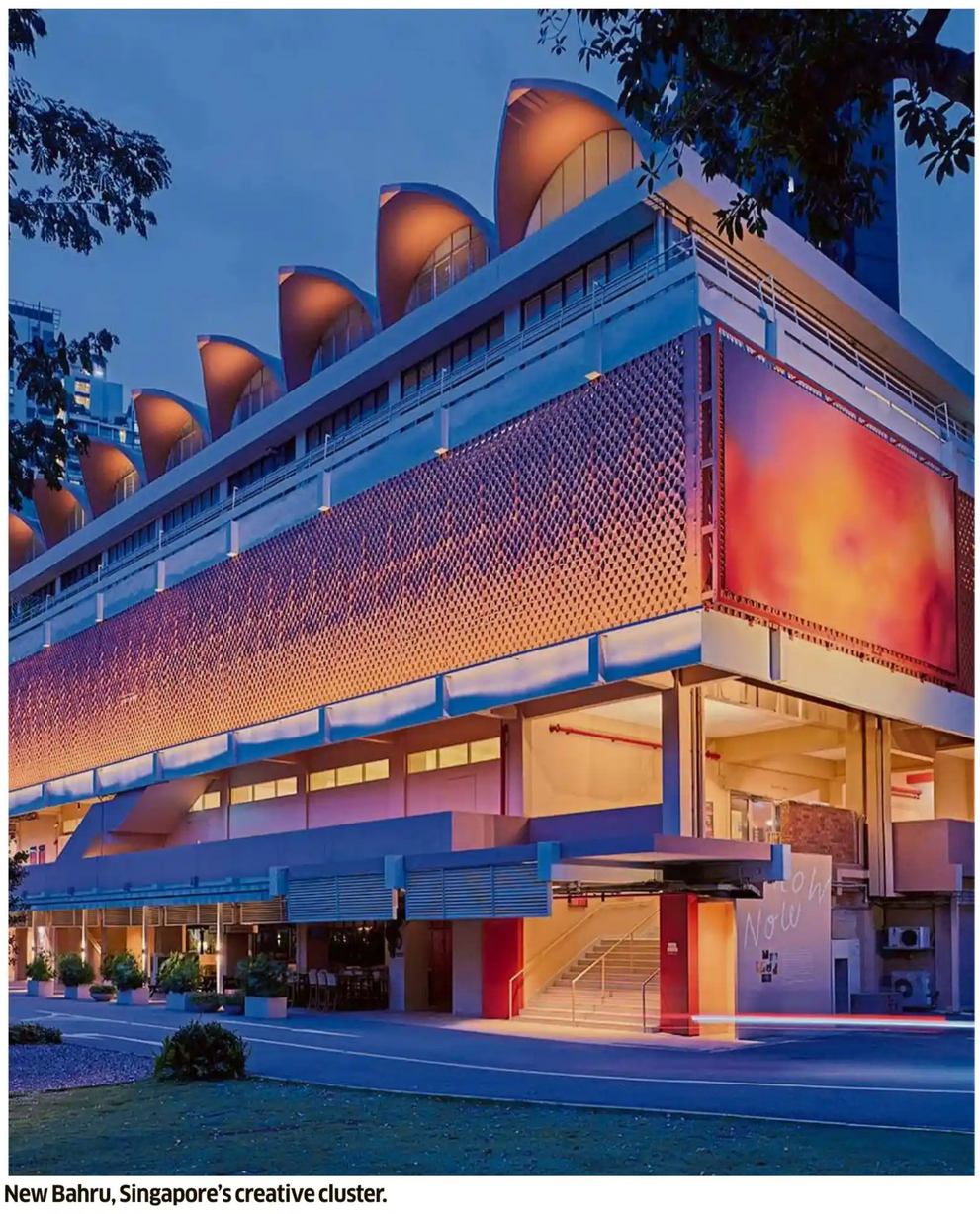
The legend behind it goes back to the Mahabharata. To secure their victory in the Kurukshetra war, the Pandavas had to offer a human sacrifice. According to folklore which details the necessary conditions for the sacrifice, only three warriors qualified: Krishna, Arjuna and Aravan. Aravan volunteered to be sacrificed but presented a few of his own wishes. One of them was to experience the bliss of marriage before his death. No woman would marry a man fated to die the next day. So, Krishna transformed into Mohini for a night and married Aravan. The next day, Aravan was offered to Goddess Kali. He played a pivotal role in ensuring the Pandavas' victory. Every year, during the month of Chithirai, this legend is revived as trans women from all over the country travel to Koovagam to marry Lord Aravan, and a day later, mourn his death and sacrifice. After experiencing the festival, from the lush colours on the wedding day, to the heart-rending scenes of mourning the next day, I felt both gloomy and astonished. Many conversations with trans women at the festival reveal the prejudices they have endured in society, and within their own families that have abandoned them due to their sexuality. Each conversation also reveals the resilience, courage and spirit of these women. During my time at the festival, I realised that the ultimate happiness in our life comes from being true to ourselves. When I asked one of the participants, "Akka, what do you feel when you come back to this event every year?" she replied: "Coming back? This is where I belong. This is my home where I can be myself, embrace being myself and meet people like me — a family of my own."

Safe space

At Koovagam, trans women bear witness to each other's journeys and challenges in life and form a safe harbour for the community. They invited me into their world with warmth and acceptance, and it was a privilege to be amongst them and learn from them. I decided to write my book as a witness, to tell the stories of these women who taught me about the prejudice they face and how they conquer them. I also realised that more people needed to know about this festival, and as a photographer, the visual medium allowed me to transport readers from all over the world to Koovagam. I hope people see beyond harmful stereotypes and accept the beauty of differences. I often think about another conversation I had with a trans woman at the festival, who told me, "The real struggle isn't survival, tambi. It's convincing the world that peace begins when you stop seeing differences as threats."

(The writer is a travel photographer, film maker and author of 'Souls of Someone: Myth, Magic and Mourning in Koovagam', HarperCollins India.)

Travel



New Bahru, Singapore's creative cluster.

Vibrant street art and cafe culture, Haji Lane.

All that's cool about Singapore

The city-state has, for long, been seen as a checklist-style family destination. A stroll through neighbourhoods such as Tiong Bahru with its Art Deco buildings or Kampong Glam with its street art will show you a different side of the city, writes Tejashee Kashyap

It's a Saturday morning in Singapore's Tiong Bahru, and walking around in a different country lined with greenery, neat sidewalks, and sun-drenched paths brings an easy kind of bliss. The architecture stands out with neat rows of Art Deco buildings within which sit these cool, almost hidden stores. It has everything a new-age, hip neighbourhood should: the right mix of culture, history, and youthful cool.

A mindful version of Singapore seems to be taking shape — most visible in the growing crop of community-led, creatively inclined spaces that offer locals and travellers something different: a chance to experience the city slowly, up close, and more personally.

With its minimal, design-forward spaces, New Bahru feels like a haven. The once school classrooms have been transformed into intimate studios, cafés, and shops. You drift from a curated rack of local fashion to an artisanal leather studio, hop between matcha bars and aromatic coffee spots, or somehow find yourself lingering in chic bookstores.

In Tanjong Pagar, KADA Maxwell, housed in the former St Andrew's Mission Hospital — a beautiful building dating back to 1923 — draws in everyone: café-hoppers, pilates, girls, gym-goers, and the occasional visitor there for the vibe.

Tucked away near Chinatown is 195 Pearl's Hill Terrace that housed the police barracks. You can still feel the past in the scuffed corridors and sun-faded stairwells. Now, the same spaces have been taken over by independent studios, galleries, and creative businesses. Singapore is a fine example of a city that restores old buildings really well, without over-polishing them or turning everything into glass towers. Consequently, you get to experience a simpler, nostalgic side of the city.

Made for slow wandering, Joo Chiat Road feels like watching Singapore unfold on a single stretch. It's dotted with charming new boutiques that hold on to its Peranakan roots, something you might recognise from the movie, *Crazy Rich Asians.* One moment it's modest old shophouses, then suddenly, ornate Peranakan homes in soft pastels, and just a little further down, Art Deco buildings with a tropical, slightly worn charm.

Not just fun and games!

While you're doing all the easy, slow things around the city, there's always this underlying sense of how Singapore came to be. It's a true melting pot — Malay, Chinese, Indonesian, a touch of Arab influences — all coming together to shape what Singapore is today. A good way to experience its history is to hop onto a vintage Vespa sidecar and take a tour through the neighbourhoods, as the city moves around you.

Colourful facades in the Joo Chiat neighbourhood. (PHOTOS BY AUTHOR)

Katong and Joo Chiat are now among Singapore's most recognisable Peranakan enclaves. While you're at Joo Chiat Road, it feels like it's important to take a moment to understand the culture.

The tour traces the lives of the Straits-Chinese families who settled in British Malaya and intermarried with local Malays, creating a culture that is layered, distinctive, and still very much alive. Many were prosperous merchants who played a key role in shaping modern Singapore, which explains the beautifully preserved buildings that once served as shops, homes, and even seaside bungalows.

Peranakan way of life

For a deeper dive, I headed to the Peranakan Museum. It feels less like a formal museum and more like stepping into someone's home — rooms filled with heirloom furniture, delicate beadwork, and family photographs. The museum details the Peranakan way of life, including wedding ceremonies, religious practices and funeral rites. There's a love for the ornate and the beautiful in Peranakan culture, and you notice it in the details: enamel tiffin carriers and dishware in pinks and blues with delicate floral motifs; intricately beaded slippers; embroidered lace blouses and sarongs influenced by the Netherlands and Indonesia; and detailed, carved teak furniture and fine porcelain from China.

Maritime history

Singapore has always been the beating heart of the maritime era. Back then, ships used to crowd the docks, their holds filled with textiles, spices, and ceramics and land traders from everywhere — Arabs, Indonesian, Indians. You still catch glimpses of that past in Kampong Glam, where old shophouses that once belonged to spice traders and textile merchants now house slow-fashion boutiques, minimalist cafés, and perfumers quietly distilling oudh into handblown glass bottles.

At the centre of it all is the Sultan Mosque. Its story goes back to 1824, when it was built for Sultan Hussein Shah, though the structure you see today took shape in the late 1920s. A short walk away, the Malay Heritage Centre, once the Sultan's palace, sits tucked behind gates, shaded by frangipani trees. Now, Kampong Glam, the neighbourhood in which the mosque is located, is a map that blends the past and present.

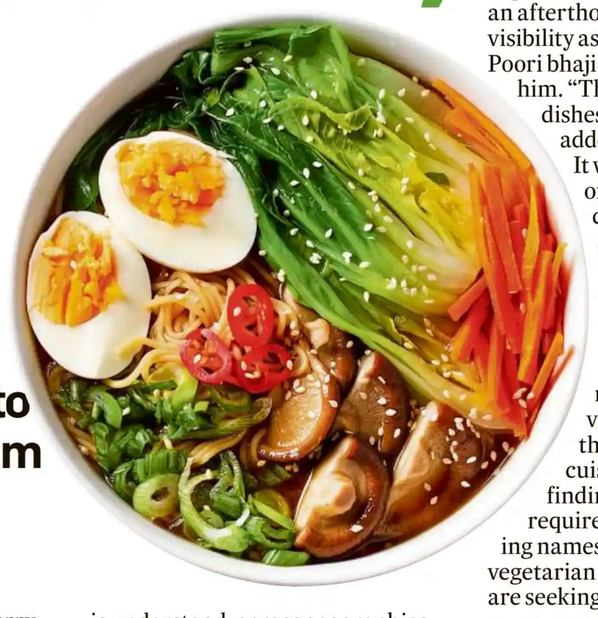
There's street art across the walls; famous artist Yip Yew Chong's mural traces the area's journey from a bustling port town to the cultural quarter it is now, hawkers selling satay (street food) and teh tarik (tea), and blacksmiths at work. Haji Lane is just the place if you like flipping through vinyl or hopping from one bar to the next.

Perhaps the most fun I had learning about the city was hopping onto a vintage Vespa sidecar and riding through Tiong Bahru. The Art Deco heritage estate is filled with striking architecture and murals that capture Singapore's slower, earlier days. They are a delight to look at — old-school ice cream carts, biscuit tins, and a 1950s provision shop, among others. The neighbourhood also has a wet market — distinctly Singaporean. You shop downstairs for fresh produce, then head upstairs to the hawker centre, where local dishes compete for your attention.

Singapore has the image of a quick, checklist-style family destination. And yet, there's space for slow afternoons, for lingering over tea with nowhere else to be.

VEG RAMEN, no fish broth, please!

The meaning of vegetarianism shifts across geographies. Indian travellers who prefer vegetarian find that while some spaces cater to their preferences, others leave them reading between the lines (of the menu), writes Viren Naidu



"Do you have anything vegetarian," asked Delhi-based communications professional Dhruv Saxena at a cafe on the second day of his trip to Lisbon.

When he was served a steaming bowl of soup, he heaved a sigh of relief. After having survived on only French fries, bread and coffee on the previous day, this felt like a safe option. Halfway through the meal though, Dhruv, whose palette is now accustomed to sensing unfamiliar flavours, enquired if anything at all was remotely non-vegetarian in the soup. The waitress, almost nonchalantly, replied, "The broth is made of chicken stock. But don't worry, there are no pieces of chicken in it." To her it was trivial, but to Dhruv, it was a recognisable pattern — one that follows him across most of his travels. "It is not the revelation that is unsettling, as much as the doubt with which you have every morsel," he says.

The next few days were no different. A portion of vegetable udon noodles arrived made in fish oil. A Caesar salad contained something salty and chewy — not cheese, but anchovies. Even the crowd-friendly blueberry pancakes had eggs in them.

Food writer and Youtuber Kunal Vijaykar empathises with Dhruv. "A vegetarian may confuse a classic Caesar salad as 'safe', but it always has anchovies in it. That is a type of fish." In Southeast Asia, such experiences are more frequent.

"Most vegetarian dishes are made in shrimp paste or oyster sauce," recalls Kunal, who was once served a broth in Thailand with a literal fish head floating on it. "It is a common misconception: to them, vegetarian means no meat. Fish is acceptable," he says.

Kunal points to this ambiguity, while referring to his vegetarian friends who rave about the pizza in Rome. "The cheese in Italy, unlike the desi variations here, has rennet as a key ingredient. And that is derived from animal sources."

These are not deliberate errors or communication gaps but local assumptions rooted in a country's culinary traditions, many times oblivious to those following them. What may seem like cultural insensitivity to Indian diners, is only a reflection of how the definition of vegetarianism is understood, across geographies. And it is this hyper-localisation that many Indians find hard to navigate.

Not a universal definition

"Vegetarianism is not a universal category," explains Krishnendu Ray, professor of Department of Nutrition and Food Studies, New York University. "Its interpretation keeps shifting across social, ethical, religious frameworks." In parts of the Mediterranean, for example, the broth is not considered non-vegetarian, even if made with meat. "In India, however, vegetarianism is often shaped by ideas of purity, caste ideologies and even, humoral balance," he adds. And this distinction does not always translate globally. Even within India, vegetarians do not speak a universal language. "A 'pure vegetarian' would exclude onions and garlic, sometimes even potatoes. To the rest, these exclusions may seem incomprehensible," Krishnendu says.

Craving familiarity and comfort

For Dhruv, the gap has heightened his level of awareness — sniffing dishes before eating, interrogating waiters, googling ingredients and pausing after the first bite. This state of constant alertness sometimes bogs him down. By the fourth day of the trip, this tediousness makes way for something else. "Suddenly, I am seeking a familiar palate — good old dal chawal or roti sabzi."

In his quest for familiarity, he stumbled upon Martinhal Lisbon Oriente's Terrace restaurant where for once, the menu unfolded to his liking, a dedicated section for Indian vegetarian cuisine presented not as an afterthought, but with the same visibility as black cod with miso soup. Poori bhaji and khichdi stood out for him. "These were not token Indian dishes. It seemed like it was added intentionally," he says.

It was an intriguing contrast of what vegetarian food could seem like within the same city.

As Chitra Stern, founder and CEO of Martinhal Family Hotels & Resorts explains, after a few days, Indian guests wish to return to home-style flavours. "This does not mean they are replacing local cuisine," she says. "It is about finding familiar comfort." This requires more than simply adding names that resonate with the vegetarian Indian. "These travellers are seeking an authentic Indian culinary experience — not a loose, adapted interpretation."

It involves investment: sourcing Indian chefs trained in traditional techniques, and strict vegetarian principles, and collaborating with hospitality schools.

Dhruv, who spoke to one of the chefs, mentions how members of the culinary team had travelled to India for immersive training. "When the meal tastes 'Indian', and not a European version of Indian, this detailing counts," he says.

A classic Caesar salad can contain anchovies, a type of fish.

The cafe on the first day revealed a void, and hospitality spaces are trying to fill that void. Yet, such inclusions are far and few. Take Thai food for example, says chef Delzad Avari who has worked across diverse culinary landscapes such as Trinidad and Tobago, Dubai and the Maldives "The OG Thai curry always contains shrimp paste for that extra umami. Fish sauce brings out the flavour, which makes it unique — the absence of which would simply alter the dish," Delzad says.

Substitution not easy

While vegetarian substitutes are available, replicating the dish with the same precision is not easy. He recalls his stint as a chef in a West Indies' restaurant, famous for its steaks. Once when a few Indian guests dropped by, he took up the challenge, as the only Indian chef, to toss a quick desi curry. "They were thrilled," he says. It is this dynamic, between exploring new cuisine and retreating to familiar one, that defines many travel experiences of Indians abroad.

"I think familiarity and nostalgia, at some point of your travels, tend to sink in," says Chantelle Nicholson, chef, and founder of London's Apricity restaurant, which holds a Michelin Green Star. Acknowledging the rise of Indian vegetarians lately, dishes on the menu are carefully classified and labelled. She even excludes products from animals, such as dairy, eggs and honey. However, she also points out that though she can "never guarantee if anything is 100 per cent free of a certain ingredient," as is the case with cooking within shared kitchens.

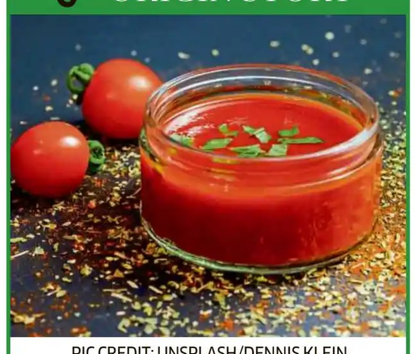
This transparency explains how dietary preferences are understood, not in exact terms but influenced by cultural expectations, if not communicated explicitly. "Even in the most tourist-friendly destinations, there is still a lack of understanding of the nuances of vegetarianism," Kunal says. "While restaurants may be welcoming, the confusion will persist if they refuse to understand what it means to be vegetarian to us."

Back in Lisbon, the contrast between Dhruv's meals — the broth at the cafe and poori bhaji at Martinhal — is jarring.

One reflects the local culinary ethos, while the other attempts to meet the expectations of the global Indian traveller.

Both follow their own culinary logic. But they reveal a paradox: that food, like any foreign language, does not always translate easily.

ORIGIN STORY



PIC CREDIT: UNSPLASH/DENNIS KLEIN

It's ketchup time

Ketchup is one of the most widely used condiments but how did the word, and the savoury dip come about? The word was included in the 18th-century 'Dictionary of the English Language' by Samuel Johnson. It is widely acknowledged that ketchup originated from the Hokkein Chinese ke-tsiap, which is fish sauce that's fermented. According to the book, 'Our Fermented Lives', by Julia Skinner, mushroom ketchup preceded the tomato version of ketchup. The book cites another origin story around the ketchup. It quotes authors William Shurtleff and Akiko Aoyagi who say that soya sauce in Malay and Indonesian is called keh-chup or kecap. Ketchup is said to have linguistically originated from this Indonesian word, according to this version.

While the use of mushroom, fish and walnut ketchup was popular in the early 1700s, the use of tomatoes for ketchup started a good century later. According to the book, 'Pure Ketchup: A History of America's National Condiment', by Andrew F Smith, the first known tomato ketchup recipe was published by James Mease, a Philadelphia scientist in 1812. The popularity of tomato ketchup, the book says, increased because of the rising consumption of tomatoes in the United States by the 1850s. Because the price of tomato ketchup became more affordable, it was used more widely than the mushroom and walnut ketchups which were priced higher, according to the book.

Curated by Savitha Karthik
*(**Origin Story** attempts to satiate your curiosity about the history of a certain ingredient or cuisine.)*

Ageing faster? It's your sleep, more or less

Worried about ageing? The answer may lie not in anti-ageing creams or pills but in getting the right amount of sleep. The Goldilocks zone is approximately 6.5 to 7.5 hours, writes Dr T Vivek

In the race to slow ageing, people are investing in everything from collagen supplements and anti-ageing skincare to expensive wellness therapies. But according to emerging science, one of the most powerful longevity tools may already be available every night, in your bedroom.

HEALTH IN THE HEADLINES

A groundbreaking study published in the journal *Nature* has triggered global attention after revealing a strong connection between sleep patterns and biological ageing. Researchers found that both too little sleep and excessive sleep may accelerate ageing within the body, affecting major organs including the brain, heart, lungs and immune system.

The message is clear: sleep is no longer just about feeling refreshed the next morning. It may determine how well and how long the body ages. Sleep is one of the most underestimated pillars of health. People often treat sleep as optional in modern lifestyles. But biologically, sleep is the body's repair window. During this time, critical processes like tissue recovery, immune regulation, hormonal balance and brain detoxification take place.

Science of 'biological age'

While chronological age simply reflects the number of birthdays celebrated, biological age tells a deeper story — how old the body actually behaves internally.

The *Nature* study analysed health data from nearly 5,00,000 adults and discovered what scientists call a 'U-shaped relationship' between sleep and ageing. Individuals sleeping too little, especially below six hours, and those sleeping excessively showed signs of faster biological ageing compared to people with moderate sleep duration. Researchers identified the healthiest range to be approximately 6.5 to 7.5 hours of sleep per night (*Nature* study identified it as 6.4 to 7.8).

What makes the findings particularly significant is that poor sleep was linked not only to tiredness, but also to accelerated ageing across multiple organ systems. We are now understanding that chronic sleep disruption affects almost every system in the body. The effects are not always immediately visible, which is why many people ignore them. But over time, poor sleep increases inflammation, metabolic stress and vulnerability to chronic disease.

Modern lifestyles ruining sleep

Late-night scrolling, binge-watching, endless work emails and irregular schedules — modern urban lifestyles have created what health experts increasingly describe as a silent sleep crisis. Blue light exposure from smartphones and laptops suppresses melatonin, the hormone that regulates the body's natural sleep cycle. Add stress, anxiety, work pressure and poor routines to the mix, and sleep quality deteriorates even further. Many people proudly say they function on four or five hours of sleep. But the body keeps a biological record of chronic sleep deprivation. Eventually, it begins affecting immunity, cardiovascular health, metabolism, and even cognitive performance. Poor sleep has already been linked to hypertension, obesity, diabetes, anxiety, depression and heart disease. Now, evidence suggests it may also accelerate the ageing process itself.

SLEEP QUOTIENT

- Healthiest: **6.5** to **7.5** hours of sleep per night
- Sleeping more could be a sign of underlying health conditions and poses the risk of heart disease, obesity and ageing
- Sleeping less also leads to a range of mental and physical health issues, and hastens ageing

More sleep is not always better

Interestingly, the study also found that excessive sleep may carry its own health risks. Doctors believe prolonged sleep duration can sometimes signal hidden health conditions like chronic inflammation, depression, metabolic imbalance, or untreated disease. The goal is not sleeping longer. The real goal is restorative sleep — uninterrupted, high-quality sleep that allows the body to recover efficiently. This means that someone spending eight hours in bed may still wake up exhausted if sleep quality is poor.

One of the biggest overlooked threats to healthy sleep is obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA), a condition where breathing repeatedly stops during sleep. The disorder remains significantly underdiagnosed in India. Loud snoring, choking episodes during sleep, excessive daytime sleepiness and morning headaches are warning signs people should never ignore. Untreated sleep apnoea reduces oxygen supply during sleep, placing stress on the heart, brain and blood vessels. Over time, it can increase the risk of hypertension, stroke, diabetes and premature ageing.

Anti-ageing prescription

As longevity science advances, experts say the future of healthy ageing may depend less on cosmetic fixes and more on basic biological habits — especially sleep.

Doctors recommend:
- Maintaining a fixed sleep schedule
- Avoiding screens before bedtime
- Limiting caffeine late in the evening
- Exercising regularly
- Managing stress effectively
- Seeking medical help for snoring or persistent fatigue

Sleep is not wasted time. It is one of the body's most sophisticated healing mechanisms. For healthier ageing and better quality of life, protecting sleep has to become a health priority. In a world looking for the next anti-ageing breakthrough, science may have delivered a surprisingly simple answer: sleep better and age better.

(The author is a consultant interventional pulmonologist at a Hyderabad hospital.)

IN FOCUS

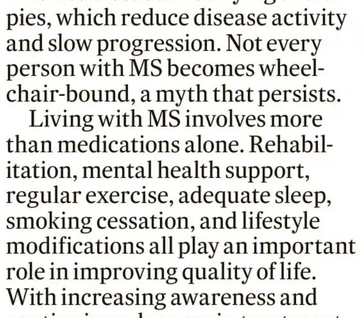
Coping with multiple sclerosis

DR PRAMOD KRISHNAN

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic neurological disorder that affects the central nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, and optic nerves. It is an autoimmune condition in which the immune system mistakenly attacks myelin which is the protective covering around nerve fibres. Damage to this sheath disrupts the transmission of nerve signals, leading to a wide range of neurological symptoms.

Globally, nearly 2.8 million people are estimated to be living with MS. The disease was once considered uncommon in India, but improved awareness and advances in diagnostic techniques have led to increasing recognition across the country. Multiple sclerosis is more commonly seen in young adults, particularly women between 20 and 40 years of age. Contrary to common misconceptions, MS is not contagious, and many women with MS can have successful pregnancies under proper medical supervision. The exact cause remains uncertain, but both genetic susceptibility and environmental factors such as viral infections and smoking are believed to play a role. Multiple sclerosis is often called a disease with "many faces" because symptoms vary greatly from person to person. Common symptoms include blurred or painful vision, tingling or numbness in the limbs, weakness, imbalance while walking, and urinary disturbances. Fatigue is one of the most common yet under-recognised symptoms and can significantly affect daily life. Anxiety and depression are also frequently associated with MS and should not be overlooked.

There are different forms of MS. The most common is relapsing-remitting MS, in which patients experience episodes of new or worsening symptoms followed by periods of partial or complete recovery. Over time, some individuals may develop gradual worsening of disability, known as secondary progressive MS. Another form, primary progressive MS, causes a steady progression of symptoms without distinct relapses. Diagnosis of MS is based on careful clinical evaluation supported by radiological findings. MRI of the brain and spinal cord has revolutionised the diagnosis of MS, especially in the early stages when symptoms may be subtle or intermittent. In selected cases, a lumbar puncture may also support the diagnosis.



Damage of the myelin sheath is a sign of multiple sclerosis.

No definitive cure

Although there is currently no definitive cure for MS, treatment options have expanded remarkably over the past two decades. Steroids are commonly used to treat acute relapses. Long-term management involves disease-modifying therapies, which reduce disease activity and slow progression. Not every person with MS becomes wheelchair-bound, a myth that persists.

Living with MS involves more than medications alone. Rehabilitation, mental health support, regular exercise, adequate sleep, smoking cessation, and lifestyle modifications all play an important role in improving quality of life. With increasing awareness and continuing advances in treatment, many individuals with MS today are able to pursue education, careers, relationships, and personal goals. Early diagnosis and timely treatment are crucial for achieving better long-term outcomes.

(The author is HOD and consultant - neurology, epileptology and sleep medicine at a Bengaluru hospital.)

LENSCRAFT

'Ray composing music, 1982', sitting in his study. (ALL PICS COURTESY: DAG)

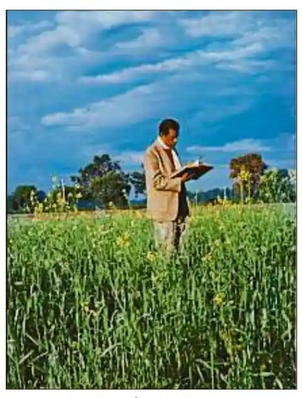
The man who watched **Ray**

What happens when the auteur we have mostly seen in monochrome returns in colour, all due to a 'bug on a windowsill'? An unexpectedly human portrait emerges, writes Pushkar V

A bug on a windowsill. That is how Satyajit Ray once affectionately described Nemai Ghosh: an ever-present, quietly watching, never-in-the-way presence. It is perhaps the most precise metaphor for what Ghosh did over 25 years as he stayed close, stayed still, and let the world of Ray unfold before his camera.

The result is now gathered into a stunning volume titled Faces and Facets: Satyajit Ray in Colour, which is nothing short of a visual biography, something Henri Cartier-Bresson himself acknowledged when he called Ghosh the 'photo-biographer' of Satyajit Ray.

The book accompanies Faces and Facets: Satyajit Ray in Colour at DAG, New Delhi, an exhibition featuring never-before-displayed photographs by Nemai Ghosh that focus on his extensive, decades-long documentation of the filmmaker. It features rare colour images of sets, actors, and behind-the-scenes moments that highlight not only the unique artistic partnership between Ghosh and Ray but also document the auteur's life and work, offering a glimpse into the genius of Satyajit Ray through Ghosh's intimate, unobtrusive lens.



Ray in 1977.

This year marks Satyajit Ray's 105th birth anniversary, and the timing could not have been better. His family called him Manik, meaning jewel in Bengali, and those who loved and respected him added 'da' as Bengalis do for an elder they hold dear.

There is no better occasion to sit with this photo book and ask: what does colour do to a man we thought we already knew in black and white? The answer, it turns out, is quite a lot.

Ghosh first encountered Ray in 1968 on the sets of *Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne* in the small town of Rampurhat, West Bengal. "Everything about him intrigued me," Ghosh writes in the book's preface. What began as fascination became devotion, and devotion became an archive of nearly 90,000 photographs, one of the most exhaustive visual records ever created of a filmmaker by a single photographer.

On the sets of 'Ghare-Baire', 1983.

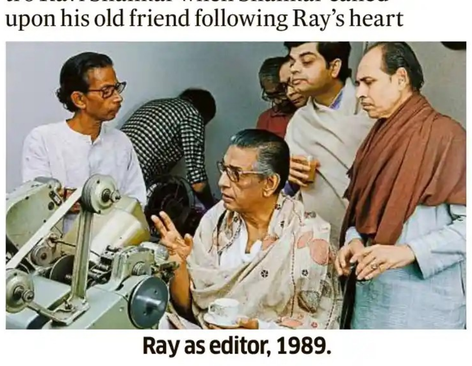
The book opens with Ray in his study. It is his cave, yet an airy room, with heaps of papers and books, the kind of room that seems to hold the shape of its occupant's thinking process. Ray sits stoically in his chair with a pipe in his mouth, his legs anchored against a table in his Calcutta home. It is the same chair, he once said, that he needed to feel creative. The image is sharp enough to catch the grain of paper, the shimmer of an ashtray, and the low spread of afternoon light.

Here is where he wrote scripts, composed music, sketched costumes, and drew posters: a one-man studio disguised as a sitting room. The photographs do not just show a filmmaker at rest. They show the environment in which Ray's cinema was conceived.

Colour in Ghosh's hands restores what black and white had filtered out. You see the warmth of Ray's interiors. You see the particular fatigue on his face during recovery after his 1984 heart attack as he paces in the verandah with the portrait of his mother hanging behind him. You see the textures of sets, the hues of costumes he designed, the light falling differently on his face when he is directing versus when he is thinking. Between photographer and subject, the camera was a shared understanding.

On the sets, Ghosh caught Ray at his truest self. There is Ray demonstrating to actors how a scene should feel, his face shifting expressively, carrying the emotion he wants transferred to the screen. There is Ray alone in a music studio during a lunch break, a cigar in his mouth, keyboard and books all around, composing in solitude. The pictures from the sets are nearly a cinema of their own.

One particularly striking photograph captures Ray's interaction with sitar maestro Ravi Shankar when Shankar called upon his old friend following Ray's heart attack in 1984. Then there is an image with French actor Gérard Depardieu, an encounter that underlines just how far Ray's cinema had travelled beyond borders. Andrew Robinson, who has written extensively on Ray and whose captions enrich this volume, brings the same biographical approach he applied to Satyajit Ray: The Inner Eye. Together, Ghosh's lens and Robinson's text ensure that this is not merely a coffee-table book but a document of a life lived entirely in the world of cinema.



Ray as editor, 1989.

Ghosh was awarded the Padma Shri in 2010, and his photographs now sit in the permanent collection of India's National Gallery of Modern Art. But perhaps his greatest achievement is simpler. He gave us Ray not as a monument but as a man: thinking, working, laughing, and creating the extraordinary in ordinary afternoon light.

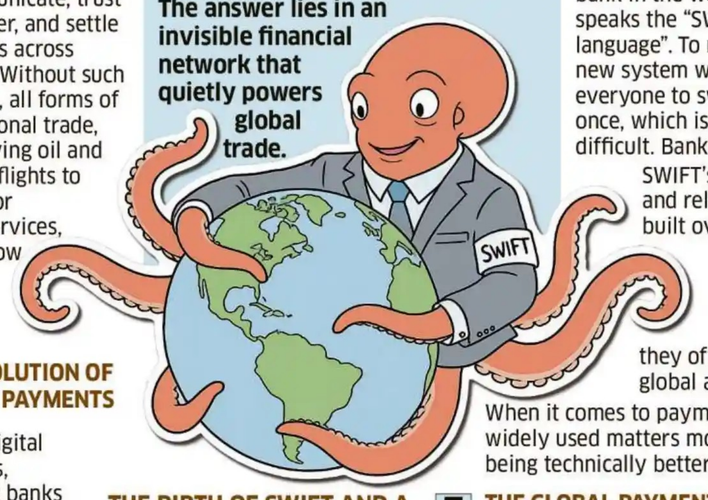
The exhibition runs till July 4.

SOTERICA *A monthly exploratory infographic for the always curious*

If you've been following geopolitics lately, you may have heard the word "sanctions" more than once – US sanctions on Iran's oil exports, Western sanctions on Russian energy exports, and so on. But

HOW ARE SANCTIONS ENFORCED?

In a world where countries are free to trade with one another, how can any government hinder another country's exports without ever sending a soldier or warship? The answer lies in an invisible financial network that quietly powers global trade.



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE NEED FOR A GLOBAL PAYMENTS SYSTEM

Say you want to send Rs10,000 to a friend in Paris. You can't just "transfer" money the way you would within India. Different countries have different currencies, banks, and rules. There is no single global bank that holds everyone's money. So, banks need a system to communicate, trust each other, and settle payments across borders. Without such a system, all forms of international trade, from buying oil and booking flights to paying for online services, would slow to a crawl. **1**

THE EVOLUTION OF GLOBAL PAYMENTS

Before digital networks, domestic banks used telegrams, phone calls, and handwritten instructions to tell foreign banks to move money. Large banks kept accounts with each other (correspondent banking) in order to settle payments indirectly. But this system was slow, error-prone, and insecure. A typo in a message or a delayed telegram could hold up millions of dollars. There was also no standard format. So, every bank did things slightly differently. **2**

THE BIRTH OF SWIFT AND A GLOBAL PAYMENTS SYSTEM

SWIFT, created in 1973, solved the communication problem. It doesn't move money itself – it sends secure, standardised messages between banks. As a highly secure global messaging service for banks, SWIFT tells banks what to do, but the actual money moves through the banks' own accounts.

If you send Rs 10,000 to X in Paris:

- Your Indian bank sends a SWIFT message instructing its European correspondent bank to route the Euro equivalent of Rs 10,000 to X's bank in France.
- The correspondent bank deducts money from your Indian bank's account and passes the funds down the line to France. X's bank receives the verified instructions and credits the money to X's account. **3**

SWIFT HAS HAD NO REAL REPLACEMENT

There are alternatives like regional payment systems, digital currencies, and new banking networks such as China's CIPS and Russia's SPFS. But SWIFT dominates because of trust and scale. SWIFT connects more than 11,000 financial institutions in over 200 countries and territories. So, almost every major bank in the world already speaks the "SWIFT language". To replace it, a new system would need everyone to switch at once, which is extremely difficult. Banks also trust SWIFT's security and reliability, built over decades. New systems may be faster, but they often lack global acceptance. When it comes to payments, being widely used matters more than being technically better. **4**

THE GLOBAL PAYMENTS SYSTEM HELPS ENFORCE SANCTIONS **5**

SWIFT is based in Belgium and must comply with European Union law. Because it operates within a financial system dominated by Western institutions, the US and its allies can use it to enforce sanctions. When banks are sanctioned, SWIFT can be required to disconnect them from the network. And because much of global trade is conducted in dollars and euros, Western governments can also block transactions through their currency-clearing systems.

Imagine an Indian refinery trying to pay Iran for oil. Normally, it would send a SWIFT message to transfer money. Without SWIFT, payments can still be arranged, but through slower, costlier, and less reliable channels. Trade shrinks even when both sides are willing. In the modern world, controlling financial communication can be as powerful as controlling trade itself.

TEXT & DESIGN: SIDDHARTH MOHANTY | Sources: SWIFT.com, dollarsandsense.org, hub.jhu.edu

POT-POURRI

Duct tape? No, that's design!

One of Japan's most in-demand graphic designers is neither hip nor an artist by training: he's a septuagenarian security guard who works the graveyard shift at a train station in Tokyo.

Shuetsu Sato discovered his hidden passion when he was asked in 2004 to help travellers navigate the crowded, labyrinthine Shinjuku station as it underwent renovations. His solution was to make signage from duct tape, covering the station's walls with directions to the myriad train lines, exits, and more. He loved the work, the result was effective, and the station master kept asking for more. "No one would think to ask a security guard to make signs or posters, so when someone requests one, I can't help but do my best," said the bespectacled 72-year-old, dressed in a bright-yellow jumpsuit uniform.

As more signs went up, discerning eyes noticed. Soon, Sato was getting requests from all over Japan to make lettering for movie posters and a museum sign. He even got work from corporate giants such as Nintendo and Suntory. Last year, he won the Japan Sign Design Association's platinum award for his unique typography, now known as "Shuetsu-tai" after his name, characterised by rounded edges aimed at soothing commuters' irritation. One of Sato's latest projects is collaborating on a logo for Nike's new brick-and-mortar store, which opened last month in the Shinjuku shopping district. For all the popularity his work has garnered, Sato has never charged a fee, leaving compensation up to his clients. He only asks for meals to be provided while he works and transportation costs.

Shuetsu Sato. (REUTERS PIC)

Reuters

MOTLEY GARDEN

A city that has no patience for leaves

There is a whole school of urban thought that treats falling leaves as a civic inconvenience, something to be engineered away, rues Subhashini Chandramani

Every April-May, I take out my infrared thermometer and run a small experiment in my garden. I point it at the paved slab in full sun, note the reading, then walk a few steps into the shade and take another. The difference has always been striking. In full sun, the slab reads 42 to 45 degrees Celsius. A few steps into the shade, it held at 25 or 26. It moved to 27 last year, and 29 this year. And I wonder how quickly the gap will close in the years to come.

Bengaluru summers were not always like this. There was a time before the nineties when the city's heat was considered mild enough to attract people escaping the furnace of the plains. You could step out in the afternoon, run your errands, and come back home without feeling wrung out. Big, old, unhurried trees like Pongamia, Sampige, Margosa and Rain trees lined the avenues and rendered the pavements beneath them that much cooler. Walking under them on a hot afternoon, you felt the cool breeze play gently on your skin. They gave a few degrees of relief that no air conditioner can quite replicate. Today, many of them are gone. Some have fallen in storms, others have made way for wider roads and taller buildings.

The concretisation of city roads is one part of the story. But it is not just the main roads. Look around us. We have covered every inch of soil around our homes with concrete. Plastered floors are neat, easy to maintain, and clean. What this has created, though, is a problem we have not quite come to terms with. When the transition from winter to summer arrives, and trees shed their leaves, those leaves have nowhere to go. On soil, a fallen leaf stays put. It mats down, softens, and over weeks, disappears back into the ground. But with barely any exposed earth, they pile up on concrete, clog drains, and blow into corners. We have removed the very surface that knew what to do with them. And now we stand, broom in hand, baffled and irritated. We created this situation. The trees did not.

My neighbour has a grievance against trees. Specifically against any branch that drifts across the compound wall into their side. Their compound is neatly cemented, easy to sweep, and almost entirely sealed from the sky. A fallen leaf in their courtyard is cause enough for a conversation I do not want to have. They are not alone. There is a whole school of urban thought that treats falling leaves as a civic inconvenience, something to be engineered away.

Old, unhurried trees make a big difference to the temperature. Pictured above is a Gulmohur (also known as May Flower tree) in full bloom.

On soil, a fallen leaf stays put. It mats down, softens, and over weeks, disappears back into the ground.

In my garden, the canopy of bamboo and mango does what the avenue trees do to the city. It intercepts the sun before it reaches the ground. The fallen leaves add to this. They break down slowly, feed the soil, and help it hold moisture. Together, the tree and its leaves create a system. The shade keeps the ground cool. The soil, kept alive by what falls into it, does the rest. No drain is blocked. No broom is required.

When a city replaces trees and soil with concrete, it loses this system entirely. Hard surfaces absorb heat throughout the day and release it through the night, keeping temperatures elevated long after the sun has moved on. This is what is called an urban heat island. It is not the dramatic spike in peak summer temperatures that tells the story. It is the temperature of the floor that rises. Shaded areas and cool nights no longer bring the relief they once did, and the baseline creeps up degree by degree.

The difference between my shaded garden slab at 29 degrees Celsius and the sunlit slab three steps away at 45 degrees is 16 degrees. Multiply that across a city, across all those sealed, swept, leafless compounds, and you begin to understand why April in Bengaluru feels different from how it did 30 years ago. A city does not heat up all at once. It does so quietly, in increments that we barely notice, until one April, the thermometer tells us what we should have seen coming. We have built a modern city that has no patience for leaves. Now it has no comfort for us either.

Motley Garden *is your monthly kaleidoscopic view into a sustainable garden ecosystem. The author believes gardens are shared spaces where plants and creatures thrive together. She can be reached at allthingsinmygarden@gmail.com or on social media at @allthingsinmygarden*

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